

# AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.

Designed to improve the Farmer, the Planter, and the Gardener.

AGRICULTURE IS THE MOST HEALTHY, THE MOST USEFUL, AND THE MOST NOBLE EMPLOYMENT OF MAN.—WASHINGTON.

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FOR PROSPECTUS, TERMS, &c.,  
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## DREADED JOBS.

With what a comfortable, exultant feeling one sits down to his fireside of an evening, after finishing up a tough, ugly piece of work, which he has dreaded to undertake, and somewhat doubtful of its answering the purpose when done, but out of which he has come triumphantly at last! It is not a victory won over a fallen foe at an expense of physical force, bad temper, and future remorse; nor that over perverse brute strength and will, with corporeal suffering as the penalty of long continued contumacy; but an absolute creation of something valuable, tangible, and comely to the sight, out of what was not only, in itself, nothing, so far as good was concerned, but worse than nothing in effect—offensive to the sight, and a nuisance on one's premises.

We have just been doing one of these very things—creating a broad, rich space of pasture, plow, or meadow land—it will bear any thing, in fact, that we want to grow on it—out of a brushy, frog-hidden swamp of some acres in extent. The various sources of supply for water had draggled, ever since Noah's flood, over scores of acres of the best of soil, lying so level that the listless water scarce knew which way to run, and impeded throughout, even if it had at any time a will of its own, by tussocks of rushes, brushwood, and fallen trees. These, latter, to be sure, had been cleared off with the adjoining forest, years ago—after the fashion; but instead of ditching it at the time, it was left for a more convenient season, and in hopes, too, that the sun would dry it up and the water find its own channel away. But it did no such thing. There the water lay, and there the rushes, and the flags, and the water-grasses grew, and the alders with them; and there continued the frogs, and the lizards, and all creeping things which find a home in such stagnant receptacles. The final pool into which these miscellaneous waters centered, was a shallow basin, crusted round by a broad, low ridge, just high enough to prevent the water from escaping, only at an unusual flood, and the basin itself just deep enough to give a good bottom for all its vegetation to grow upon—drying up every summer for six weeks or two months, but yielding nothing for good, either to man or beast.

This was a job we had long threatened to do; but other labors pressing more upon us, we had from year to year postponed it, until, during the past fall, a couple of fresh, stout-handed Englishmen presenting themselves for work at ditching,

we set them at it. A tough, weary, wet, and dirty job it was too. It is useless to describe it, as probably the reader has no one of his own just like it; but the result to us is, a fine, clean, free piece of ground, with the water running into what was the bowl of the swamp, by various little channels of open drain, (we intend it for pasture,) and emptying themselves into a broad, shallow one along the center until it reaches the boundary ridge, where it pushes through a cut of full four feet in depth, and works out again on the level of a gentle slope, and spreads itself away in a fertilizing stream over a broad bottom below. Thus, at the expense of fifty dollars, we have drawn off the water which had absolutely spoiled half a dozen acres of the best land on the farm, and made twenty acres more so cold and sour that its pasture was of little or no value. Now, is not this a victory worth exulting over? It should have been done before, to be sure, but all things were not made in a day, and we cannot do up all our improvements as we would, even with the amplest means at our command. A few more jobs of the kind are left for future execution, at which we intend not to be so dilatory as in this.

There is no particular moral in the above rather egotistical narrative; but as we apprehend many of our readers may have a forbidding, rough spot of earth, or water, or brushwood, or stones upon their farms, quite as repulsive to the sight, and the touch, as was this of ours, we can freely say, that when once you get engaged in a job of the kind, you will not find it half so bad as you anticipated; and when accomplished, it will give you a grateful, pleasurable feeling every time you see the spot hereafter, and every time you think of it, besides being repaid the outlay much sooner than you had expected.

## ARE GEESE PROFITABLE OR OTHERWISE?

We have heard an adage that "geese devour all before them and poison every thing behind." We know nothing positively as to the truth of this very charitable accusation against the poor goose, although we have for several years kept them on our farm. At all events they are no favorite with farmers generally, being difficult to fence against, where there is not abundance of water; and where they have access to the grounds about the house are untidy intruders. The common goose has little beauty to boast of, and certainly no music in its voice, but its feathers are a great item of comfort in housekeeping, and in flesh no poultry exceeds them in delicacy of flavor. They are easily and cheaply raised; living, after a few days old, on the coarsest grass and other herbage, and when they can have ac-

cess to a considerable stream, or pond of water, require but little food during winter.

The Chinese goose is nearly as beautiful as the swan, sitting gracefully on the water, and having a shrill, clarion cry, harmonious, even at a moderate distance. Some are very dark colored, with black bills and feet; others are pure white, with orange-colored bills and legs. Besides these, is the great Guinea or African goose, nearly resembling, but much larger than the Chinese, with black bill and orange-colored legs and feet, and the same graceful figure and musical cry. To these may be added the Bremen, purely white in color, of double the size of the common goose, but otherwise of the same figure and style. Neither of these foreign varieties are as prolific, or hardy as the common kind, but better fleshed. They are the most ornamental water fowl we have, and a beautiful addition to a pond or stream in a park, or large lawn. For profit, they have little to recommend them, while the common goose is hardy, prolific, and yields a delicate carcase of flesh when less than a year old.

In some sections of the country, particularly where there are extensive commons, great numbers of them are bred, mostly by the poorer class of people who have little land of their own, and they are sometimes kept by large farmers as an article of convenience. We should like some information as to the value of geese as a branch of farm stock where they are well accommodated with water, and the fences of such description as to prevent them from depredations upon the crops.

## NEW-YORK HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

FOURTH Conversational Meeting, Jan. 29d, 1853. Mr. PLAICE in the chair. Subject—The Cultivation of the Camellia.

R. R. SCOTT read an essay on the introduction and history of the Camellia, which embraced brief remarks on its improvement in European countries, its popular character, and the success with which it has been cultivated in the United States.

A few specimens were furnished from the garden of D. BOZZI to illustrate the improvement in Hybrid varieties. A seedling from the Single Red, very similar to the original, showed the primitive characteristics of the genus, which is of a natural order TERNSTRÖMIACEAE, and a closely allied family to the teas, *Thea Bohea*, *T. Viridis*, and *T. Assamica* or Assam Tea; which indeed were once ranged under the genus Camellia, and which plant they much resemble. All the above named species, except *T. Assamica*, are natives of Japan and China. *Camellia oleifera* is the only other species of Camel-

lia which is noted, being used in commerce for the oil extracted from it. The date of the introduction of the Camellia is stated by the best authority to have been 1789; but this proved less important than more recent ones, as the first plants were not of a character to be easily propagated or improved, and quite valueless in originating new varieties. For this reason a later introduction proved more important, as it brought the Single Red, by means of which seedlings have been raised, in originating numbers of which, the florists of the United States are behind none in the world; since the climate here, especially a little farther south, is peculiarly adapted to its cultivation. While the Camellia cannot become as popular with us in the northern States as the favorite rose, nor vie with it in fragrance, still the operative class in republican America cannot consider it beyond their reach, and the humble sewing girl may, without any great stretch of liberality, be presented with a Camelia-flower for the concert-room.

P. B. MEAD. Before entering on the discussion of this subject, I wish to say a word or two relative to the discussions at the last Conversational Meeting. As the proceedings are published, I consider it due to myself to explain why I took what might be considered an extreme position, in the course of the debate. My remarks at the last debate on the rose were quite misconstrued. I only referred to standards when out of place, and not when located judiciously, surrounded by small plants or shrubs. When these meetings were proposed, it was the opinion of many with whom I conversed, that the members could not be prevailed on to speak. I stated that I could provoke them to do so, and find now that in the course I have pursued I may have appeared in a peculiar light before the public; as for what may be thought within the Society, I am not so anxious. This I trust will be a sufficient explanation, and for the future I shall be careful to state only plain matter-of-fact opinions, for which I will be responsible.

The subject of the Camellia I have divided under the following heads: Propagation, Soil and Manures, Winter Treatment and Summer Treatment.

*Propagation.*—The methods by which Camellias are propagated are by inarching, grafting, budding, cuttings, and seeds. I believe the general practice is to propagate the Single Red by cuttings, to be used as stocks on which the double varieties are to be worked. I have, however, succeeded in striking cuttings of several double varieties, such as Wilderii, Imbricata, and others, without difficulty, and would like to know from professional growers what has been their experience.

Thos. Hogg, Jr. I desire to call attention to the importance of calling varieties by their proper names, as much confusion occurs by carelessness on this point. For example, take the Camellia raised by Col. M. P. WILDER, and named in honor of him as the originator, which the termination of the word shows. Now, this is called by various names, such as General Wilder, &c. We should correct this.

Mr. Hogg's views were fully concurred in by the members, as there are Camellias Wilderii and Abby Wilder, also Caleb Cope and Mrs. Cope; the correct nomenclature is of much moment to the trade.

D. BOLL stated that he had found that Double White, Imbricata, and other double varieties, would strike from cuttings as well as single ones; but their after growth is slow. It has

been proved, however, that American seedlings differ materially in constitution from the imported Chinese ones, as they strike much more rapidly; such sorts, for instance, as Mrs. Fetter, Caroline Smith, Binneyii, Prattii, Wilderii, and others.

Remarks were made by Mr. BOLL upon his method of grafting and inarching large plants.

Thos. Hogg, Jr., entered fully into the practice of grafting and inarching large Camellias, and stated that he had been fully successful with old plants. He had operated with success on stocks one inch in diameter, by simply cutting off the top, making a split and inserting scions.

P. B. MEAD recommended that the stock above the union of the graft should not be cut off all at once.

Thos. Hogg, Jr., differed with him on this point, his own experience was not corroborative.

P. B. MEAD instanced the manner in which old pear trees were sometimes furnished with new sorts in a few years, by grafting, and believed this practice was applicable to the Camellia. He mentioned that such a practice had been followed by Mr. CRANSTON, who was present.

Mr. CRANSTON, of Hoboken, stated the result of his experiments to have been successful to a certain extent with large Camellias.

Thos. Hogg, Jr., had been led to try the method of grafting old stocks, by observing some plants of *C. reticulata*, sent from LODDICES & Son, of London; they appeared to have been treated in the manner described. The chair described an instance of natural inarching which he had seen. It occurred in two parts of the tree, at about ten feet of an interspace. It appeared to him curious at the time.

Thos. Hogg, Jr., explained the method and theory of inarching.

The Chair wished to know why plants in pots are more readily operated upon, as has been stated, than in open ground.

R. R. SCOTT stated that it arose from the fact that they were more under the control of the operator, as to watering and other treatment, since the temperature and moisture of the atmosphere could be regulated according to circumstances, which could not be done with plants in the open air.

Thos. Hogg, Jr., explained the importance of peculiar treatment under such operation, as grafting, or inarching; and the necessity of withholding water when the top with the leaves had been cut off.

R. R. SCOTT was desirous that this branch of the subject should not be dismissed without some information as to the method of raising hybrids, which some of those present were fully competent to furnish.

D. BOLL stated the course pursued by the late J. B. SMITH, as described to him by that gentleman, whose success proved his accuracy. He mixed up several varieties of pollen in one mass, and then applied it to the female flower between ten and twelve o'clock in the day; this he believed the best time, as the greatest amount of solar influence was requisite.

R. R. SCOTT. The seeds are to be sown as soon as ripened, as they are oily, and seeds of this character do not bear keeping long.

The first part of the subject having been disposed of, the meeting adjourned to Monday, 30th. We regret that this meeting was not better attended by the amateur portion of the members, for whose benefit the discussions were especially got up.

The meeting was almost entirely composed of gardeners and persons connected with the profession, which prevented treating the subject as much in detail as would otherwise have been the case.

CONSOLATION indiscreetly pressed upon us, when we are suffering under affliction, only serves to increase our pain, and to render our grief more poignant.

#### STRAWBERRIES IN WINTER.

THE following is from the *Tribune*, one of whose editors exhibited some of the ripe fruit at the Astor House on the evening of the 19th of January. It had a fine appearance, and we have no doubt would have been highly relished by those present, if allowed to taste it; but the quantity was too small to permit this. We have often conversed with Mr. PEABODY on his method of raising strawberries, as detailed below.

We have several specimens of this fruit lying upon our desk as we write, which were plucked from vines grown in the open air, and the fruit ripened without the aid of a hot-house. The plants from which we plucked these berries were grown upon the plantation of Geo. A. Peabody, about five miles from Columbus, Ga., and sent to this city in a basket some weeks ago, where they have been blooming and ripening fruit ever since. Mr. Peabody has five or six acres covered with strawberry plants—plants, not vines, for they have no runners—from which he gathers fruit and sends to market regularly every day for an average period of six months in the year; making them, by his peculiar mode of cultivation, produce abundantly through the long hot summers, and sparingly through three or four other months.

The variety cultivated is the Hovey Seedling, impregnated with the Early Scarlet, and so changed is their character that they manifest no more disposition to throw out runners than the wild vines of the old pastures in their uncultivated state. Mr. Peabody endeavors to conform his cultivation as closely to nature as possible. He sets the plants in rows two feet apart, with a row of impregnators every sixth row, and in the fall spreads a slight coat of woods mould, and covers the ground completely with leaves, but never afterwards digs up the surface or applies any other manure. Grass and weeds are cut up with a hoe, and runners which only occasionally appear are cut away, unless the old plant is failing, and then that is cut up and a new one started.

Every day during summer the vines are copiously watered by the assistance of a garden engine. This is the principal cause of success; of continued production and re-production of fruit through such a long season.

We have seen upon these beds a growth of fruit ten times greater by weight or measure than all the vines or leaves producing it, and at the same time, upon the same soil only a few rods off, a growth of vines which would have afforded a good swath to the mower, upon which there was not a single berry. This bed was highly manured, and bore vines. The other bed was highly watered, and bore fruit.

Dr. Hull, of Newburgh, has mulched his beds with spent tan bark, instead of leaves, and found it eminently beneficial, increasing the productiveness, richness of flavor, and length of time of bearing. The question which naturally suggests itself to the minds of all is this:

Can we lengthen the bearing season of the strawberry plant in this climate by pursuing the same course which has proved so wonderfully successful with Mr. Peabody?

For the American Agriculturist.

#### KEEPING FARM ACCOUNTS.

No one will deny the importance of keeping accounts on a farm, that the owner may know the amount of his receipts and expenditures, and the cost and value of each crop. I imagine that the chief difficulty and cause of the neglect of this duty arises, not from a doubt of its importance, but from the want of knowledge of a system, at the same time simple and sufficiently comprehensive, to embrace all the points worthy of record.

From these views I would present the leading features of a system I have adopted, with

examples and explanations, and would request similar reports from others, that a more perfect system may be arranged than we now possess. First I take a small quarto blank-book of about 150 pages, in which I record, at the beginning of the year, the number and age of each kind of stock, leaving room after each animal, or class, to make further entries concerning them. After each cow entered by name, will appear the time of calving, disposal made of the calf, and if raised, a description by which it may afterwards be known. Under the head of sheep, will appear their number and kinds, the time of the beginning and close of the lambing season, number of lambs reared, season of washing, shearing, weight of fleece, &c.

Next I make a daily journal in the same book; each day using one line across two opposite pages, on one page giving the date, and record of the weather, on the other page the operations of the farm; thus two weeks will occupy two pages, and a few lines will be left for remarks.

To illustrate I will give a week's record from my journal, beginning Jan. 1st, although there is less variety and interest at this season of the year.

RIGHT HAND PAGE.

LEFT HAND PAGE.

1854.	Wind.	Temperature.	Patrick and Robert at manure and muck.		James threshed oats.
			Jan. 1st.	E. & W.	
" 2d.	W.	30°, 35°, 20°,			
" 3d.	S. W.	7°, 26°,	½ clear.		
" 4th.	S. W.	30°, 45°,	½ clear.		
" 5th.	S. W.	38°, 51°,	½ clear.		
" 6th.	N. W.	38°, 15°,	½ clear; windy.		
" 7th.	S. W.	9°, 18°,	½ clear.		

Then may follow any general remarks of interest, as the arrival of birds, or appearance of flowers denoting the advancement or delay of

seasons, the arrival or departure of friends, &c. These entries will occupy but a few minutes daily, and I can assure any one, from experience, that reference to them is often not only a source of great pleasure, but of convenience and profit; for in settling with your men, by recalling the circumstances of weather, labor, &c., you can satisfy them of every day's absence you may have charged to them. I also devote a page to each crop, where appears under the name of the crop and number of the field, (which I take from my map of the farm which hangs by my desk,) the date of plowing, cultivation, and harvesting, with the amount of labor for each, also the amount of seed and its preparation, if any, and finally the amount produced. These items may be entered directly or made up at leisure from the daily journal.

During the haying season I also keep a separate record of the labor, number of loads each day, and from each field, and where stored, the particular arrangement of which any one can devise.

This book lasts one year, and may commence with the first of January or first of April.

In another more permanent book I keep my accounts with my laborers, and the debit and credit of the farm.

The farm is made debit to labor, tools, seed, and manure purchased, &c. Whatever is sold or used in the family is placed on the credit side, while no note is made of the grain, roots, &c., consumed by the stock. The cattle or sheep killed or sold are credited, but the calves or lambs raised and kept are not, as we suppose that unless a great change is made in the stock its value will remain about the same, so the new tools purchased will equal the injury from wear on the old ones.

From all these sources, we may, at the end of the year, make out a great balance sheet of all the *expenses and products* of the farm, carrying out in the last column only those products which have been sold or consumed by the family. If the whole amount of labor is charged, the value of the improvements made, or their cost, must be entered on the credit side. In the account with each field and crop, no charge is made for manures, except the labor of applying it, as it is supposed that its produce consumed on the farm will make as much more for other crops. In arranging our balance sheet, if any portion of the farm has been highly improved, or seriously injured by the system pursued, it should be noticed; also any important change in the value of the stocks, tools, and buildings.

I employ also a third book, still more permanent, designed to last for a generation, or more, in which I enter a description of the farm at the time of occupancy, the amount of labor for each year, the annual produce, new buildings, improvements, &c.

These three books will enable the farmer to see at a glance the cost and value of each crop, and his improvements; and he need no longer remain in the dark, not knowing which are profitable, or which result in loss.

I hope that I have succeeded in explaining sufficiently this simple system, and that others will also make reports, until we may obtain a well-digested plan, adapted to the wants of all.

T. S. GOLD.  
*Cream Hill, West Cornwall, Ct., Jan. 17, 1854.*

We thank Mr. Gold for the above communication. Keeping accounts is almost as necessary to the farmer as to the merchant. The plan adopted by Mr. G. is a very good one, but may be too minute for those entirely unskilled in book-keeping and little used to writing. When a mere boy on our father's farm, we adopted a very simple plan, which was of practical use in managing the farm, and not only afforded amusement for many an evening hour, but also gave us practice in the use of the pen, which has been of very great benefit to us since, as we thus learned to express our thoughts much bet-

ter than we could have done, had our first lessons in this been a school exercise, in writing a formal "composition."

We prepared our own books by stitching together a number of sheets of folded foolscap. We first drew out a map of the farm with a pen, representing the fences by straight lines. Beginning at one corner, we gave each field a number, which was marked in the center, and we then followed the map with a description of each field. We give a few examples from our old note-book.

No. 1. 10 acres—30 rods north and south, 52 rods east and west—now in wheat; sown on summer-fallow twice plowed, Sept. 26th to 30th. One-third on eastern side treated with 8 loads per acre of compost of rotted wheat straw and cattle dung, plowed in at second plowing. Western two-thirds of field not manured; soil, a reddish loam, resting on limestone rock, which in many places comes up to the surface; somewhat stony; this field was covered principally with oak trees, interspersed with some basswood, and some black walnut and wild cherry trees; it was cleared 13 years ago, and has been chiefly cultivated with wheat and clover, with one crop of corn, one of peas, and one of buckwheat.

No. 7. 15 acres—woodland. The chief timber is white and black oak, with some basswood, and in the southern part a considerable number of sugar-maples, &c.

No. 12. 8 acres—meadow; chiefly grass, timothy; soil, a pretty stiff clay; chief growth of timber, beech; was cleared nine years since, sown with wheat and seeded down with timothy and clover, and has been mown every season; the clover soon ran out, and the timothy occupied the entire ground; yield at present from one and a quarter to two and a half tons per acre, according to season.

The above are actual copies from our records, and may serve as examples of the description of each field.

Following these was a general description of the farm buildings, fences, and an inventory of the implements, grain, hay, straw, &c., on hand, and a list of the animals, with a descriptive name for each. As examples we copy:

Nine horses. Two working spans, heaviest span Mike and John—Mike, black, 8 years old; John, dark brown, 7 years old. Lighter span, Kate and Pete—Kate, bay, 10 years old; Pete, bay, 11 years old. Young horses, four—one 3 year old colt, Jim, black; two 2 year colts, Jake and Jim—Jake sorrel, Jim bay; one yearling colt, black, called Minny.

Similar entries were made in reference to all other animals. The younger neat cattle, sheep, and fowls were described in classes, as the rams, breeding ewes, wethers, yearling lambs, &c.

We well remember that our first inventory occupied all our evenings for three weeks, and covered a dozen sheets, and that it required so much care that we did not need an index to tell us on what page might be found any field, animal, &c., described. This exercise inducted us into the art of expressing our thoughts with a pen, before we dared to even write a letter to a friend.

After thus laying out our work we commenced a daily record of the transactions upon the farm which were written down at night just as they occurred during the day. We give one day's record made several months later:

June 18. Patrick hoed corn in eastern part of No. 6. Morning, Father and I weighed out 1625 lbs. of hay from barrack for Mr. J. Brown; price, at \$15 per ton, \$12 19—to be paid for next Monday. Simons and brother breaking up

summer-fallow all day in middle of No. 14, with Mike and John and bridle oxen. They use Wire's plow and go 7 inches deep.

At noon father hired Wm. Johnson for two months, through haying and harvesting. He is to begin 5th day of July, and receive \$19 a month with board and washing; is to receive \$12 on August 1st, and \$26, Sept. 5th. This P. M. father went to L—, and bought of Moseley a horse-rake for \$9 cash, and purchased on account at Thompson's, 6 gallons molasses at 3s., \$2 25; 18 lbs. of sugar, \$2; 1 lb. tea, 75c., and 2 pitchforks 5s. and 6s., \$1 37; in all \$6 37. I spent the afternoon in putting some teeth in hand-rakes, and in fixing up hay mow in carriage-barn. In house they made one cheese, about 20 lbs. Weather has been fine all day, a little cloudy in P. M.

The above is a fair sample of each days' record, and gives about the average length. There is a lack of system in such a journal which makes it difficult to refer to any particular transaction, yet even with this defect it is better than no record. Let those who cannot at first follow a more systematic course, adopt such a plan as this, and they will find it a source of pleasure and profit, and they will soon be able to write down their experience for an agricultural paper. We remember many instances where our journal furnished the means of settling doubts as to agreements, exact ages of animals, &c.

#### BIRMINGHAM POULTRY SHOW.

This great show came off early in December, and seems to have been the largest, most attractive, and most successful of any yet held. We subjoin descriptions from two sources. It will be seen that among the large breed, the Brama Pootras and Grey Shanghaies, bred by Messrs. BURNHAM & BENNETT, of Boston, Massachusetts, were considered the best and most magnificent at the show. This is quite a feather in the American cap. A pair of Mr. BURNHAM's breeding sold for the enormous price of \$500! We hope these gentlemen will exhibit at the forthcoming show to be opened in this city, on the 13th of February.

This great Exhibition was held during Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday in the week, and the enormous number of two thousand two hundred and seventy cages of birds, were entered for competition for the numerous prizes. In consequence of this unequalled number of entries, the whole space hitherto allotted to the Poultry Department at Bingley Hall, was densely occupied with the pens, and also the new bay which was added to the structure during the past season—making this by far the most extensive show, of its kind, ever yet seen in this country.

Our people here seem to have gone poultry mad! The contributors to this exhibition numbered many of the nobility, and the amount of money received at the Hall (independently of subscription tickets) reached over £2000 sterling. The sales of fowls reported from the Secretary's office, summed up £1707 10s. The number of birds duly entered was over seven thousand, of all varieties and classes.

Special trains of all the principal railways towards Birmingham were run for three days, and the Society dinner came off in superb style on the 13th inst. The show of game birds was extraordinarily fine, and very large in number. The Crested fowls (especially the lately introduced Gold and Silver Polands) were beautiful, and the minor varieties were well represented. Among the Chinese varieties, the long-esteemed Cochin Chinas of Messrs. Punchard, Sturgeon, Fairlie, and others, took the palm and the prizes.

But an attractive feature, to very many fanciers, were the beautiful Silver Grey Shanghae, or Brama Pootra fowls, lately introduced among us by Mr. Burnham, of Boston, and Mr. Bennett, of Great Falls. Pens of these magnificent samples of domestic poultry were contributed by His Royal Highness Prince Albert, (bred from the stock sent to the Queen by G. P. Burnham, Esq.) and other beautiful specimens were exhibited from Mr. B.'s stock, by the Bakers and Mr. Baily, of London. Such was the high quality of the birds shown by the above-named contributors (in this class,) that the Judges could not give a decision favoring either, and no first prize was awarded in this department. A second prize was only adjudged. A single pair of these Grey Shanghaes, sent to Mr. Baily, of Mount street, London, by Mr. Burnham, of Boston, were sold at this Exhibition for one hundred guineas (\$500.) to Mr. Taylor, of Shepard's Bush—portraits of which appear in the *Field* newspaper, of the present week.

That journal, in allusion to this show, remarks that "these most useful and popular meetings, of which the present is the fifth, are, from the central situation of the locality in which they are held, from their magnitude, efficiency of their organization, and their general influence upon the several branches of agriculture and rural economy which they embrace, justly regarded as of national importance. But excellent and attractive as they have proved in former years, this will greatly surpass the best of the gatherings which have preceded it, and presents such a display of objects, the value and beauty of which all of us can understand and appreciate, as, taken altogether, has certainly never before been any where witnessed."

Upwards of twelve thousand persons visited Bingley Hall, where this exhibition was held, on the second day after the opening! Very high prices were paid for the best samples shown, and the mania appears to be on the increase as the Great Metropolitan Exhibition approaches, next month. So far as the merits of the Chinese fowls are concerned, it is admitted, on all sides, that the stock sent to Her Majesty by Mr. Burnham, as well as that shown by the Messrs. Bakers and Baily, from the same source, is decidedly the finest in England. Where will the fever terminate?—E. B. L., in *Spirit of the Times*.

In treating of the fifth exhibition of fat cattle, pigs, and poultry, in Bingley Hall, Birmingham, we have only to repeat an admitted fact, that proper and well-directed exertion must meet with success; and also, that where the arrangements are such as to deserve the support and confidence of exhibitors, that it is difficult to fix any limit or boundary to it. The original space enclosed was an acre and a quarter of land, and since the Exhibition of 1852 a further portion, above a quarter of an acre, has been added to the building. When the immense value of land in the heart of Birmingham is considered, some idea may be formed of the enterprise of those who originated and carried out this society. The public has responded to their call, and the success of which we are about to speak has been the result. Persons who have not seen it cannot imagine the effect of nearly two acres of land covered with a light glass and slate roof, and filled with all that the United Kingdom can produce in fat cattle, pigs, and poultry, of the choicest character. The loftiness and scientific ventilation of the place carry off any dust that may arise, and even the crowing of 2000 cocks is partially lost in the vast space over-head. Nothing is here neglected that can minister either to the comfort of the visitors or the well-being of the birds and animals; and a most important feature in the arrangements of the Bingley Hall exhibition, is, that gentlemen of known practical ability, and of reputed judgment, undertake the offices of stewards and superintend the feeding of the stock. The uprightness and straight-forward dealing of the committee, and the liberality of their arrangements, have met a rich reward, not only in the

complete success of their undertaking, but in the great and continuous increase of their entries. Thus last year the number of competing pens was 1223, whereas this year they are increased to 2278; and this, exclusive of more than 600 pens entered too late, and consequently rejected. Had all been in time, the number would have reached the unparalleled amount of 3000. If the committee had not adopted the salutary rule of restricting exhibitors to six pens each, it is difficult to imagine the space required for all the poultry that would be sent, as at many local shows a quarter of the pens are often found to belong to two or at most four exhibitors.

The practical results are immense, and it also belongs to this committee to claim for itself the merit of having been the pioneer of the many shows now in progress, of having originated a new and lucrative calling, and of having afforded to professional men and tradesmen a delightful recreation, and at the same time that novelty a self-supporting and, more than that, a remunerating hobby.

We will here conclude our introductory remarks, and at once go to the consideration of this most beautiful and interesting show. We will however add, that the amount of money circulated by the purchase of pens, and the increased value of a yard which produces prize birds, has been in some cases a welcome assistance, and in others a justifiable cause of pride. *Agricultural Gazette.*

#### APPEARANCE OF TREES IN WINTER.

OUR attention is not often directed to the forms of trees as they appear when divested of their foliage. But when we consider that for the space of six months all the deciduous tribes are leafless, we cannot regard their appearance, during this period, as a matter of trifling importance. When trees are in leaf, their qualities of beauty or deformity, except those of their foliage and general outlines, are not very apparent. In winter, when every part is exposed to sight, the forms and arrangements of their branches are their most important features. In the selection of trees for ornamental purposes, therefore, a great point would be gained, if we should plant those kinds which are beautiful in winter, on account of the fine shapes and proportions of their limbs, no less than in summer, on account of the character of their foliage and their general outlines.

In considering the forms and beauty of trees, four points are to be regarded:—First, their general shape and seemliness; second, their sub-divisions, and the arrangements of their branches in relation to the main stem; third, the character of their *spray*,\* or the forms and direction of their minute and terminal branches; fourth, the style and quality of their foliage. I have already treated of their foliage and of that beauty which consists in their general outlines. In the present essay, I shall treat particularly of the comparative beauty of trees, as seen in the winter, and shall endeavor to point out the peculiarities that distinguish the common species in our woods and enclosures.

The qualities most conspicuous in the oaks, are strength and sturdiness. Their branches are seldom straight, and usually make a slight bend at every sub-division. They have, likewise, a habit of forming protuberances at the joints of their limbs, and along the course of the main stem. Hence the expression, "the knotted and gnarled oak." The white oak seems to possess more of the characteristics of the genus than any other of the American oaks. The form of outline assumed by these trees, when growing singly on a plain from their first planting, is that of a hemisphere. They are inclined to extend horizontally about as much as they

\* Spray.—This word, in the dictionaries, is defined a small branch, also the ejected water of a fountain. I have used it with an extended signification, so as to include all the smaller and terminal branches of the tree, to which, in a figurative sense, according to the second definition, it might be applied, without any abuse of etymology.

rise perpendicularly. This is one of the qualities that causes that appearance of sturdiness which is peculiar to the genus. It is true that we seldom see in our fields an oak of this shape in perfection, because almost all that are in existence in this country took their first start in a forest, and have retained more or less of that imperfection of development which was caused by their cramped position, while they were receiving their earliest bent. The spray of the oak has the peculiarity of its longer branches. The terminal branches are short and angular, but when viewed against the sky, they exhibit a net-work which, without any formal regularity, is rather pleasing to the sight.

In our orchards the apple tree most nearly resembles the oak in its general outlines, having, like the oak, though inferior to it in size, more sturdiness than grace. A standard apple tree commonly resembles a hemisphere, being in diameter about twice its own height. The pear tree is taller, more near pyramidal, and perhaps more graceful. Its branches have not the horizontal tendencies of those of the apple tree. It divides the stem into several branches, which, after making a slight horizontal curve, extend upwards almost perpendicularly. As the pear tree grows older, it loses its beauty of form, on account of the weight of its fruit, which bends down the branches and gives them a peculiar straggling growth. No such effect is produced in the apple tree by the weight of its fruit.

One fact is worthy of notice with respect to our own fruit trees, which is, that a large proportion of them are perfect trees, having always had ample room to expand, and to develop their lateral branches. A large proportion of our forest trees, on the contrary, are either pollards and suckers, or individuals which have lost their beauty and their characteristics, by growing in a crowded forest, during the early stages of their existence. Even among those trees which have been planted by our roadsides, so many were mutilated for the purpose of transplantation, that but a few have attained a perfect shape and size. The present generation, therefore, must go to England, if they wish to see the indigenous trees of our own woods in all their beauty and perfection.

Another fact is noticeable in the growth of fruit trees as compared with the seed-bearers in the forests. The former are greatly deficient in any thing like grace, beauty, or elegance in their spray. Their smaller branches are blunt, short, crooked, and standing apart. A difference too may be observed in all the forest trees in this respect. The nut-bearers, in general, have a coarser and shorter spray than the small seed-bearers, with some exceptions. Compare, for instance, in this respect, the elm with the horse-chestnut. There is no quality of more importance to the beauty of a tree, in winter, than a full, dense, fine and elegant spray. Hence the superior beauty of forest trees in general, compared with the trees of the orchard.

Nothing can exceed the American elm in a certain harmonious combination of two qualities which are seldom united in the same tree—sturdiness and grace. One of its manifest peculiarities is the length and slenderness of its branches, which, at the same time, exhibit nothing in their appearance that is at all suggestive of weakness. There is nothing so agreeable to the mind as a truly happy combination of two qualities which are generally considered incompatible. This remark applies particularly to the creations of art and genius, but may be applied with equal truth to the productions of nature. The American elm possesses a feminine gracefulness, in alliance with masculine strength, that affects every observer with a peculiar sensation of beauty and grandeur.

The trunk of the elm, after ascending to a certain height, divides itself into many branches of equal size, given out from a common center, at an acute angle. These, after gradually diverging, are constantly sub-divided into smaller branches, that bend over and downwards with a graceful sweep, reaching in old trees almost to

the ground. There are, among our elms, exceptions to this weeping habit, which have led some botanists to divide them into two distinct species. There are but few trees in our forests that equal the elm in the beauty and gracefulness of its spray. On account of the length and multiplicity of its branches, diverging, in a perfect tree, almost from a common center, then bending over, and forming in their outline an almost hemispherical head, the elm is the most beautiful of trees when divested of its foliage, and, more than any other tree, resembles in the general arrangement of its branches, the spray of a *jet-d'eau*. I do not except the weeping willow, whose large branches are not so generally given out from a common center, but are sub-divided at different places. The weeping-habit of the willow is conspicuous chiefly in the sudden droop of its slender terminal branches; whereas the large branches of the elm make an arch, by gradually bending over from their joints to their extremities. Hence of the two, except when covered with foliage, the elm is the more graceful and elegant. The foliage of the elm is neither beautiful nor brilliant, not deeply green in summer, nor very brightly tinted in autumn, nor are its leaves tremulous in the wind. In richness of foliage it is surpassed by the English elm. But in its general aspect, both in summer and winter, it exceeds every other tree that can be named, in a rare combination of grace, majesty, and beauty.

Another peculiarity of the elm consists in a habit of throwing out small branches, resembling vines, often arranged all along its main stem, and sometimes creeping downwards. These might almost be mistaken for a parasitic growth; and they have a singular beauty which does not detract from the majestic appearance of the perpendicular trunk. I have sometimes found birds' nests in the little tufts formed by these vine-like branches, that seldom project a foot beyond the stem of the tree. This singularity of growth is chiefly confined to trees which have grown up spontaneously in the fields, and is seldom observed in those in our town avenues. It is associated in our minds with the country, and serves to add a picturesque expression to the other beauties of the elm.

The maple divides into numerous large branches, which are of unequal size, and run out in a straight direction, diverging always at the same angle, instead of curving outwards. It is a very elegant tree, but does not often attain that size which is necessary to yield it an aspect of grandeur. Its foliage is surpassed by that of only a few trees in beauty of shape and hues, being of a very deep green in summer, and having a great variety and brilliancy of coloring in the autumn. The maple runs up in height like the lime, more than it spreads horizontally, so that its height in general exceeds its diameter. Its outlines, therefore, are those of an elongated hemisphere, and are remarkable for their evenness and regularity. A tree of this genus seldom exhibits any gaps in its outlines, on account of a certain constitutional vigor, which enables it to restore the branches which have been broken or lopped from it. The maples, being distinguished for the smooth and cinereous surface of their branches, and the agreeable regularity of their forms and manner of growth have a singularly elegant appearance in winter.

There is no tree in our woods that is so prim and formal in its growth as the ash. The same formality is observed in a greater or less degree in all trees whose branches are opposite, as in the horse-chestnut. The ash attains a very great height and size, and on account of the tendency of its branches to curve inward as they ascend, it exhibits more convexity beneath than most other trees, whose general outlines beneath are horizontal. The head of the ash is globular rather than hemispherical, like the oak; and the primness and formality in the arrangement of its branches are unfavorable to the expression of grace. It is distinguished by a general bluntness in the terminations of its smaller branches,

and has, for this and other causes, but little elegance of spray. But there is a stateliness in the general bearing of the ash, and a beauty, when it is in full foliage, that make some amends for these unfavorable qualities which I have named.—WILSON FLAGG, in *Hovey's Magazine*.

(To be continued.)

#### THE CALIFORNIA TAXODIUM.

THIS magnificent ever-green tree, from its extraordinary height and large dimensions, may be termed the monarch of the California forest. It inhabits a solitary district on the elevated slopes of the Sierra Nevada, near the head waters of the Stanislaus and San Antonio rivers, in lat.  $38^{\circ}$  N., long.  $120^{\circ} 10' W.$ , at an elevation of 5000 feet from the level of the sea. From 80 to 90 trees exist, all within the circuit of a mile, and these varying from 250 feet to 320 feet in height and from 10 to 20 feet in diameter. Their manner of growth is much like *Sequoia* (*Taxodium*) *sempervirens*, some are solitary, some are in pairs, while some, and not unfrequently, stand three and four together. A tree recently felled measured about 300 feet in length, with a diameter, including bark, 29 feet 2 inches, at 5 feet from the ground; at 18 feet from the ground, it was 14 feet 6 inches through; at 100 feet from the ground, 14 feet; and at 200 feet from the ground, 5 feet 5 inches. The bark is of a pale cinnamon brown, and from 12 to 15 inches in thickness. The branchlets are round, somewhat pendent, and resembling a Cypress or Juniper. The leaves are pale grass green; those of the young trees are spreading, with a sharp acuminate point. The cones are about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, and 2 inches across at the thickest part. The trunk of the tree in question was perfectly solid, from the sap-wood to the center; and judging from the number of concentric rings, its age has been estimated at 3000 years. The wood is light, soft, and of a reddish color, like redwood or *Taxodium sempervirens*. Of this vegetable monster, 21 feet of the bark, from the lower part of the trunk, have been put in the natural form in San Francisco for exhibition; it there forms a spacious carpeted room, and contains a piano, with seats for 40 persons. On one occasion 140 children were admitted without inconvenience. An exact representation of this tree, drawn on the spot, is now in the hands of the lithographers, and will be published in a few days."

What a tree is this!—of what potentous aspect and almost fabulous antiquity! They say that the specimen felled at the junction of the Stanislaus and San Antonio was above 3000 years old; that is to say, it must have been a little plant when Sampson was slaying the Philistines, or Paris running away with Helen, or Æneas carrying off good pater Anchises, upon his filial shoulders. And this may very well be true if it does not grow above two inches in diameter in 20 years, which we believe to be the fact.

At all events we have obtained the plant. The seed received by Messrs. Veitch has all the appearance of vitality, and since the tree is hardy and evergreen, it is a prodigious acquisition. But what is its name to be?—*Gardeners' Chronicle*.

A MALAY'S TEST OF HONESTY.—A New-England sea captain who visited "India beyond the Ganges," was boarded by a Malay merchant, a man of considerable property, and asked if he had any tracts he could part with. The American, at a loss how to account for such a singular request from such a man inquired.

"What do you want of tracts? you cannot read a word of them."

"True, but I have a use of them, nevertheless. Whenever one of your countrymen, or an Englishman, calls on me to trade, I put a tract in his way, and watch him. If he reads it soberly and with interest, I infer that he will not cheat me; if he throws it aside with contempt or a profane oath, I have no more to do with him, I cannot trust him."

## Miscellaneous.

## WINTER.

BY WILLIAM WHITMORE.

The hills are hidden in chilly mists;  
Cheerless and bare are the forest bowers;  
Drearly wanders the moaning wind;  
Wearily droop the doom'd hours.  
On a sudden ground, by the sullen streams,  
The flowers wester and wither,  
And sad boding thoughts the falling leaves  
Waft silently hither and thither;  
And the dull dark sky and the bare bleak earth  
Are rolled and mingled together.  
  
But amid these dreary days, good friends,  
Let us look before and after,  
And shake off the load of the leaden clouds,  
And stifle the storms with laughter.  
Let us raise a shout to split the sky,  
Like a dungeon-arch bent o'er us;  
Let the full fresh tide of our life gush forth  
In a mad and merry chorus,  
Till the woods again seem filled with song,  
And flowers seem strewed before us!  
  
And round the bright fire for many a night  
Let us join in a pleasant task,  
Amid streams of blithe talk, like the cheering flow  
Of rich red wine from a flask.  
With song, and with story, and jovial jest  
The hours will flee lightly away,  
And the glad glad light of the mirthful night  
Will shine through the gloomy day; [glow,  
And fresh buds will blow in our Spring's sunny  
'Mid the drooping year's decay.

## THE PENITENT SCHOLAR.

SCHOOL is out. The last lesson has been recited and the evening hymn sung; and now the shouts of merry voices are heard on the green. Their spirits overflow like long pent-up waters. But one of their number is still imprisoned. All is quiet now in the school-room. There sits the teacher at her desk with a sad and troubled look. At one of the desks before her sits a boy, whose flushed countenance and flashing eye, tell of a struggle within. His arms are proudly folded, as in defiance, and his lips are compressed. He will never say, "I'm sorry, will you forgive me?" No! not lie! His breath comes thick and fast, and the angry flush upon his cheek grows deeper crimson. The door stands invitingly open. A few quick steps, and he can be beyond the reach of his teacher. Involuntarily his hand snatches up his cap, as she says, "George, come to me." A moment more, and he has darted out and is away down the lane. The teacher's face grows yet more sad; her head sinks upon the desk, and the tears will come, as she thinks of the return he is making for all her love and care for him. The clock strikes five, and slowly putting on her bonnet and shawl, she prepares to go, when looking out at the door, she sees the boy coming toward the school-house, now taking rapid steps forward, as though fearful his resolution would fail him; then pausing, as if ashamed to be seen coming back. What has thus changed his purpose?

Breathless with haste he has thrown himself down upon the green grass by the side of the brook, cooling his burning cheek in the pure, sweet water; and as gradually the flush faded away, so in his heart died away the anger he felt towards his teacher.

The soft south wind as it stole by, lifting the hair from his brow, seemed to whisper in his ear, "This way, little boy, this way;" and voices within him murmured, "Go back, go back." He started to his feet. Should he heed those kind words; should he go back? could

he go? ah! and here was the struggle. Could he be man enough to conquer his pride and anger, and in true humility retrace his steps, and say "forgive?" could he go back? but as he repeated the words, he said to himself, "I will go back;" and the victory was won. Soon with downcast eye, and throbbing heart, he stood before his teacher, acknowledging in broken accents his fault, and asking forgiveness. The sunbeams streamed in through the open window, filling the room with golden light; but the sunlight in those hearts was brighter yet. Ah, children, if you would always have sunlight in your hearts, never let the clouds of anger rise to dim your sky.

He was a hero. He conquered himself; and Solomon says, "He that ruleth his spirit, is better than he that taketh a city." At first he cowardly ran away; but his courage came again; he rallied his forces and took the city. Brave is the boy that has courage to do right, when his proud heart says, "I will not." —*N. Y. Observer.*

## OUR MOTHER.

THE following is from the pen of a distinguished author. The sentiments are true and excellent, and beautifully expressed:

Around the idea of one's mother, the mind of man clings with fond affection. It is the first deep thought stamped on our infant hearts, when yet soft and capable of receiving the most profound impressions, and all the after feelings of the world are more or less light in comparison. I do not know that even in old age we do not look back to that feeling as the sweetest we have through life. Our passions, and our wilfulness may lead us far from the object of our filial love; we learn even to pain her heart, to oppose her wishes, to violate her commands; we may become wild or angry or headstrong at her counsels or opposition; but when death has stilled her monitory voice, and nothing but calm memory recapitulates her virtues and good deeds, affection, like a flower beaten to the ground by a past storm, raises up her head and smiles amongst her tears. Around that idea, as we have said, the mind clings with fond affection; and even when the early period of our loss forces memory to be silent, fancy takes the place of remembrance, and twines the image of our dead parent with a garland of grace, and beauties, and virtues, which we doubt not she possessed.

**SURE RECIPE FOR HAPPINESS.**—One of the wealthy merchants of our city, whose death the past year was universally mourned, often told his friends an anecdote, which occurred in his own experience, and which was recommended to all those who wish to enjoy a serene old age, without allowing their wealth to disturb their peace of mind. He said that when he had obtained his fortune, he found he began to grow uneasy about his pecuniary affairs, and one night when he was about sixty years of age, his sleep was disturbed by unpleasant thoughts respecting some shipments he had just made. In the morning he said to himself, "This will never do; if I allow such thoughts to gain the mastery over me, I must bid farewell to peace all my life. I will stop this brood of care at once, and at a single blow." Accordingly, he went to his counting-room, and upon examination found he had \$80,000 in money on hand. He made out a list of his relatives and others he desired to aid, and before he went to bed again he had given away every dollar of the thirty thousand. He said he slept well that night, and for a long time after his dreams were not disturbed by anxious thoughts about his vessels or property. —*Boston Transcript.*

**A MATCH FOR A JEW.**—"We were remarking to a gentleman, who was affording us much pleasant and general information, how few Jews one met in New-England; and asking if he could assign any reason, he replied, 'Oh yes, the reason is, that no Jew on earth is a match

for a Yankee.'" —*Bunn's Old England and New England.*

**HOOD ON HEALTH.**—Take precious care of your precious health—but how, as the housewife says, to make it keep? Why, then, don't cure and smoke-dry it—or pickle it in everlasting acids, like the Germans. Don't bury it in a potato-pit, like the Irish. Don't preserve it in spirits, like the barbarians. Don't salt it down, like the Newfoundlanders. Don't pack it in ice, like Captain Back. Don't parboil it like gooseberries. Don't pot—and don't hang it. A rope is a bad "cordon sanitaire." Above all, don't despise about it. Let not anxiety have "thee on the hip." Consider your health as your best friend, and think as well of it, in spite of all its foibles, as you can. For instance, never dream, though you may have a "clever hack," of galloping consumption, or indulge in the Meltonian belief that you are going the pace. Never fancy every time you cough, you are going to pot. Hold up, as the shooter says, over the roughest ground. Despondency, in a nice case, is the overweight that may kick the beam and the bucket both at once. In short as with other cases, never meet trouble half way, but let him have the whole walk for his pains, though it should be a Scotch mile and a bittock. I have even known him to give up his visit in sight of the house. Besides, the best fence against care is a Ha! ha! therefore take care to have one all around you whenever you can. Let your "lungs crow like chanticleer," and as like a game-cock as possible. It expands the chest, enlarges the heart, quickens the circulation, and, "like a trumpet, makes the spirits dance."

**BLESSINGS UNEQUALLY DISTRIBUTED.**—A clergyman happening to pass a boy weeping bitterly, he halted, and asked, "What is the matter, my little fellow?" The boy replied:

"Before, we could hardly get enough to eat of any thing, and now what shall we do? for there's another one come."

"Hush thy mourning, and wipe off those tears," said the clergyman, "and remember that He never sends mouths without he sends victuals to put into them."

"I know that," said the boy, "but then he sends all the mouths to our house, and the victuals to your house."

**POST-OFFICE YARN.**—A letter was put into the box, the appearance of which denoted that the writer was unaccustomed to the use of stamps, and had failed to make one stick at all. He had tried, and vainly tried; but the inveterate portrait of her Majesty would curl up. At last, in despair, he pinned it to the envelope, and wrote under it—"paid; provided the pin doesn't come out."

**EARLY MARRIAGES.**—She stood beside the altar when she was but sixteen. She was in love, her destiny rested on a creature in fashionable clothes, with an empty pocket. He "came of good family," however; and blood, you know, is something. She looked lovely as she pronounced the vow. Think of a vow from pouting lips, auburn hair, and dark eyes, only sixteen years old. She stood beside the wash-tub when her twenty-fifth birthday arrived. The hair, the lips, the eyes, were not calculated to excite the heart. Five cross young ones were about the house crying, some breaking things, and one urging an immediate supply of the lac-teal secretion. She stopped in despair and sat down, and tears trickled down her once plump and ruddy cheek. Alas! Nancy, early marriages are not the dodge. Better enjoy youth at home, and hold lovers at a proper distance, until you have muscle, limb, and heart enough to face the frowning world and a family. If a chap really cares for you, he can wait for two or three years, make presents, take you to concerts, and so on, until the time comes. Early marriages, and early cabbages are tender productions.—*Exchange paper.*

## INTELLIGENT LADIES.

At the last Maryland State Agricultural Society Show we had the pleasure of listening to the excellent Annual address by Mr. C. P. HOLCOMB, to which we at the time alluded. We have since received a copy of this in pamphlet form, and have read it with interest. We were much pleased with that part of the address which alluded to the intelligence of English ladies in rural affairs. We have long advocated the propriety of giving ladies an education that should fit them for the *companions* of their husbands. We can see no propriety in that system of education, which allots to females the pursuit of so entirely a different range of study and thought from men. If husband and wife are to sit at the same table and around the same fireside together, why should not their thoughts flow somewhat in the same channel, and why should they not be able to converse together on common subjects? As it now is, they too often sit in mute silence, the husband with his paper, treating on scientific or political subjects, while the wife peruses the Ladies' Magazine or the ladies department of some paper, which must be filled with *light*, sentimental reading.

We think the appropriate sphere of woman is in household matters. We would by no means have her for ever prating of manures, soils, breeds of animals, &c., yet we cannot but think she should know something of the general principles involved in the cultivation and growth of farm products. We believe she should so understand them, that if left, by the death of her husband, to the care of the homestead, and the out-door education of her sons, she should not look out upon the fields as an unknown region, or the crops grown there, and the animals fed upon them as unknown subjects. When she walks out with her companion to view the fields of growing grain, she should be able to converse intelligently with him upon the various general processes which he is daily pursuing. Their conversation at these times, as well as around the fireside, should not be confined to a few remarks upon the weather, the stars, the fashions, the faults of the neighborhood and such like themes. The conversation that passes between the heads of families, is one of the greatest sources of instruction to the young minds expanding and growing under their care, and in proportion as this conversation is elevated and instructive, will they grow up intelligent. We think many of the English ladies have juster views of this matter than is common among our own countrywomen.

We give, as an illustration, the following from Mr. HOLCOMB's address:

I have failed to acknowledge the presence of the fair daughters of Maryland, as well as the presence of others from the adjoining States. Yet we have all seen them here defying the elements, with threatening clouds overhead and damp wet ground beneath their feet, passing round our grounds, cheering us by their smiles or encouraging us by the sound of their approving voices; and this is right. When their Husbands, Fathers, and Brothers have come forth with all their best appointments to do honor to agriculture—why should they not lend the charm of their presence to give to the occasion greater interest and honor? Was it not Portia—Brutus' Portia—that sent seven times to the forum to hear how her husband was succeeding with his speech? Was it not the high bred Grecian dame Aurelia, that herself trained her

son to contend for the prize at the Olympic Games, and was present in disguise that she might be near him, as she said, "to console him in case of defeat or to rejoice with him in the victory." The most attractive scene of rural life any where to be seen is these show grounds—this beautiful amphitheatre of a fair and bright day, when the grouping on the landscape includes as it always does, hundreds and thousands of these fine, fair women, the descendants of a landed gentry who justly appreciated the dignity of their calling, and taught their sons and daughters to appreciate it too. There is an account given by Madam Reidesel—who was the wife of a German General, that was taken prisoner at the capture of Burgoyne—in her memoirs, of a visit she paid to a Maryland Lady, which, as showing what was early done, and the pride and interest the ladies took in embellishing and exhibiting their country homes, I can-not but extract.

"At the Frederick Springs," she says, "we became acquainted with General Washington's family, and with Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_. Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ was a very amiable woman, and notwithstanding her attachment to her country, we became great friends. I visited her; the garden was splendid, and the day after our arrival she took us in her carriage to her vineyard, which was still more beautiful and tasteful, and much exceeded my expectations. We walked to the Orchard, at the end of which we ascended the slope by a winding path to the top, and all along the vines were gracefully intertwined with rose bushes and amaranths. From the top of the slope the prospect was charming, and such as I have not seen in any other part of America through which I have traveled. Not far from this place is Baltimore, which I am told is a very beautiful town, and the residence of many interesting families."

As showing the interest English ladies take in Agriculture, I cannot but relate a casual interview I chanced to have with an English lady, in going up in the Express train from London to York. Her husband had bought a book at a stand as we were about starting, and remarked to her that "it was one of her favorite American authors—Hawthorne." I casually observed, "I was pleased to see young American authors find admirers with English ladies," when the conversation turned on books and authors. But I said to myself pretty soon, "this is a literary lady—probably her husband is an Editor or Reviewer, and she uses the 'scissors' for him; at all events, I must retreat from this discussion about authors, modern poets, and poetry. What should a farmer know critically of such things? If I was only in those fields—if the conversation could be made to turn upon crops, or cattle, then I should feel quite at home." I finally pointed out a field of wheat, and remarked it was very fine. The lady carefully observing it, said: "Sir, I think it is too thin—a common fault this season, as the seeding was late; those drills," she added, turning to her husband for his confirmation, "cannot be more than ten inches apart, and you see, sir, the ground is not completely covered—twelve, and even fifteen inches is now preferred for the width of drills, and two bushels of seed to the acre will then entirely cover the ground, on good land, so you can hardly distinguish the drills."

If the Goddess Ceres had appeared with her sheaf, or her cornucopia, I could not have been taken more by surprise. A lady descanting on the *width of Wheat drills, and the quantity of seed!*

"I will try her again," said I, "this may be a chance shot," and remarked in reference to a field of plowed ground we were passing, that it broke up in great lumps and could hardly be put in good tilth.—"We have much clay land like this," she replied, "and formerly it was difficult to cultivate it in a tillage crop, but since the introduction of Crosskill's Patent Clod Crusher they will make the most beautiful tilth on these lands, and which are now regarded as among our best wheat lands."

The conversation turned on cattle; she spoke of the best breeds of Cows for the pail, (the Ayrshires and Devons,) told me where the best Cheese was made—Cheshire—the best butter—Ireland—where the best milk-maids were to be found—Wales—"Oh!" said I, "I was mistaken; this charming intelligent woman, acting so natural and unaffected; dressed so neat and so very plain, must be a farmer's wife, and what a help-mate he has in her? She is not an extravagant wife either, not an ornament about her—yes a single bracelet clasps a fair rounded arm—that's all." The train stopped at York; no sooner had my traveling companions stepped upon the platform than I noticed they were surrounded by half a dozen servants—men and maids—the men in full livery. It turned out to be Sir John and Lady H. This gentleman I learned was one of the largest landed proprietors in Berkshire, and his lady the daughter of a Nobleman, a Peeress in her own right; but her title added nothing to her, she was a noble woman without it.

It is a part of our task to excel in Horticulture, in which female taste and skill must aid us. We must embellish our homes; we must make them sweet and pleasant homes. The brave old oaks must be there; the spacious lawn with its green sward—and the fruit orchard, and the shrubbery, and the roses, the vines festooned and trained about the walls and balconies—even the birds will think *that* a sweet home, and will come and sing and make melody, as though they would "teach the art to imitative man."

Such a home will be *entailed* to our children, and to their children—not by statute laws of entail, but by a higher law, the law of nature—through the force of sympathy—the associations of childhood,

"The orchard, the meadow, the deep tangled wild-wood,  
And every loved spot which our infancy knew,"

These will hold them to it—these early memories—which we should take care to deepen with a binding and indissoluble tie.

Talk not, then, O you fathers and mothers! to your sons of forensic fame—of senatorial halls—of the distinction of professional life, or of the gains and emoluments of commerce. It is not for our class, surely, to furnish more recruits to this hazardous service in which so many of the youth of the country have already been lost—lost to any useful purpose of living—themselves miserable from that hope deferred that makes the heart sick—or disappointed of the objects of life, have become overwhelmed by bankruptcy and ruin. Give to your Sons the pursuit of Washington, who gloried in being a FARMER; the field and the council chamber he sought from duty, but his Farm at Mt. Vernon, where he wisely directed the plough from choice and pleasure.

"Wide—wide may the world feel the power of the plow,  
And yield to the Sickle, a fulness delighting,  
May this be our conquest, the Earth to subdue,  
Till all join the song of the harvest inviting,

The sword and the spear  
Are only known here  
As we plow, or we prune—or we toil void of fear,  
And the fruit and the flowers all smile in their bir h,  
All greeting the Farmer, the Prince of the Earth."

CLERGYMEN.—Some people talk a great deal about ministers, and the cost of keeping them, paying their house-rent, table expenses, and other items of salary. Did such croakers ever think that it costs thirty-five million dollars to pay the salaries of American lawyers; that twelve millions of dollars are paid out annually to keep our criminals, and ten millions of dollars to keep the dogs in the midst of us alive, while only six millions of dollars are spent annually to keep six thousand preachers in the United States? These are facts, and statistics will show them to be facts. No one thing exerts such a mighty influence in keeping this mighty Republic from falling to pieces as the Bible and its ministers.

How to HOAX PUNCH.—Pay threepence a week, and you may take Punch in.

## American Agriculturist.

New-York, Wednesday, February 1, 1854.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The letter of S. R. G. is received; answer will be deferred two or three weeks for an article on the subject.

The letter of A. E. M., of Va., is also received, and will appear as soon as we have room.

Answers to L. D. will be given when we get time for an article on the subject.

Z. B. W.'s items are put into the "editorial drawer," to be drawn out as wanted.

H. Y.'s article is under consideration. His request to "publish without alteration, note, or comment," cannot be complied with. We are responsible for the style and grammatical construction as well as the matter of our paper. We invariably take the liberty to correct, change, or condense all communications sent us. To give up this prerogative would be to relinquish our editorial responsibility. We endeavor to keep in view the interests of *all* our readers, and cannot give up space to gratify the partiality of any individual for his own article.

We have also a letter on butter-making, post-marked Iowa. All communications should be accompanied with the name and address of the writer; we do not, however, publish the writer's name when specially requested not to do so.

### CHINA PIGS.

By the arrival at this port of the ship *Sword Fish*, Capt. COLLINS, from Canton, we have received a pair of pure China pigs, sent us by our friend Doct. GREEN, head surgeon of the United States' war steamer Mississippi, one of the fleet under Commodore PERRY, in the Japan exploring expedition. Doct. GREEN has sent another pair of the same kind of pigs to the Virginia State Agricultural Society. He writes us that it is exceedingly difficult to procure the finest kinds of pigs bred in China, and they can only be had by special favor. We shall take good care of those so kindly sent us by Doct. GREEN, and if they turn out well, will inform the public more about them hereafter. They had a cold, rough passage, and it will take them some little time to recover from the effects of it. They promise now to be a good addition to the farm stock of the country.

**COCOA-NUT CAKE.**—Grate the cocoa-nut, and add an equal weight of pulverized loaf sugar; to two pounds of this mixture add half the white of an egg. Sprinkle small tins with flour, put on in balls one and a half inch in diameter, and bake quickly. To be eaten cold; and will keep a long time.

For the American Agriculturist.

### BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS.

I HAVE the largest number of thorough-bred specimens of this variety of fowls to be found in the United States. They combine the form of the Dorking with the constitution of the Shanghai, and in plumage "bred to a feather." The breast is white; back and sides, creamy white; neck hackles, black penciled; tail and wing feathers, black. Tail, wedge-shaped; legs, short and yellow; bodies, compact and well feathered. Cocks, at one year old, weigh ten

to eleven and a half pounds; hens, seven to eight and a half.

I am satisfied that for this climate they are by far the best variety of fowl. I have tested this by experiment since 1848, commencing with the Dorkings, Malays, Polands, &c. you sent me.

RICHARD PETERS.

Atlanta, Georgia.

We have no doubt that the larger breeds of fowls do much better at the South than at the North. Our climate here is too cold for them, and the summer too short for a full, perfect growth. Many here differ with us in opinion, and continue to keep the large breeds; but so far as our experience goes—and it is not small—fowls of a medium size, like the Dominique, Malay, Poland, &c., do best, and prove the most profitable north of 40 degrees latitude.

We are often written to from the South for poultry. We hope our friends in that quarter will read Mr. Peters' letter, and remember that very choice large fowls are now bred in their own latitude and much nearer home.

For the American Agriculturist.

### SCHOOL REMINISCENCES.

I READ the article on this subject by the Rev. HENRY WARD BEECHER, on page 276 of the *Agriculturist*, and note also your prefatory remarks, agreeing with him in his recollections. I, too, have a "reminiscence" on this subject, extending back upwards of seventy years ago in good old Massachusetts, and as my experience was somewhat different from yours, Messrs. Editors, and Mr. BEECHER's, allow me to give them.

The District School-house was nearly like that so graphically described by Mr. B., though somewhat improved by being sealed with boards inside, and having a floor laid overhead to prevent the heat penetrating the room from the roof. The chimney was of stone, and occupied about one-half of one end of the school-house. The huge-fire place in summer was kept filled with green bushes, and fresh wild flowers; in winter it sent up a cheerful, roaring blaze from the best of old oak and hickory wood, keeping us children warm and comfortable in the coldest of weather. Our studies were spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, and geography—though not much of the latter, as the people were not quite so curious about their distant neighbors then, nor could they reach them so easily as now in the days of iron roads and steamboats. We classed ourselves and chose sides, and great was the rivalry of the two parties to excel. Our writing copy-books were carefully preserved and compared from year to year, and in cyphering all the figures used in working the sums were put down in a book which was also preserved. We committed parliamentary speeches to memory and spoke them, also dialogues, poetry, &c. In all these things we were examined and encouraged by the literati of the town, the clergyman, physician, and lawyer, as well as the more intelligent portion of the parents; and we looked forward to their visits and examinations with the greatest delight and most pleasing anticipations. Professional men in those days considered it a duty binding upon them, to look after the education of the children of the town, not only to procure competent teachers, but to see that they did their duty. To show the interest I felt in my school, I will relate a circumstance.

When ten years old, I cut my foot badly with an axe, so that I could not bear my weight upon it for six weeks, during which time I went a mile to school upon crutches, sometimes through an unbroken path of snow from one to two feet deep. We had hard winters then. These were among the happiest days of my life, but not more so than those under the administration of my female teachers during summer. I still remember their dress, a short calico gown with bright colors, a crimson worsted skirt, linen stockings of her own spinning and knitting, with her bright, sparkling eyes and sweet expression, how could I but love her, and the lessons she taught me to read. "No man may put off the law," &c. Don't tell me that these were unhappy days. Ten years of my life were spent in this humble school-house, from the age of three to thirteen, from the year 1780 to 1790, and I have not lost my fondness for juvenile schools yet.

These school-houses have been the bulwark of our nation. But for them we should have never had our Websters, Clays, Shermans, and a host of others; and it would be well if some of the wise-acres of the present day—those who affect to despise these humble halls of knowledge—would turn their attention more to the formation of the minds of children—little children if you please—and less to mental speculations, which tend to no profit. I care not how handsome and convenient school-houses are made and furnished, and I delight to see shrubbery, flowers, and neat grass plots around them, but rest assured these alone will never satisfy any child who has been foolishly indulged by its parents at home.

The backless seats you speak of, were as comfortable as the cushion seats of the present day. Mine were made of slabs—not planks—from the saw-mill, with legs of hickory put in with a two inch auger; rough, to be sure, but our pants were equally so, being made of coarse tow cloth in summer and of thick coarse home-made woolen in winter, and the friction of each smoothed the other. Your objection to the height of the seats is a valid one, but not so with that against their being backless. Children ought not to be bolstered up when lying, sitting, or standing. They have muscles and sinews like the shrouds of a ship-mast, and the more these are used the stronger they become. [We cannot agree with our respected and venerable correspondent in this. Children sitting in a room six hours a day should have some support for their backs or they will become round-shouldered, and their chests will become unhealthily compressed, and the spine especially will become curved: The same reason given for backless seats could more strongly be urged against having any seats at all; indeed we would prefer none to having those not fashioned to preserve the natural figure of the body.—Eds.]

There is no good reason why schools should not be the happiest places upon earth. I know a school which fluctuates in numbers attending from forty to seventy. From my window I can see the children entering the yard with a hop, skip, and jump; and they are as cheerful through the day as the birds upon the grounds about the house. And why? Simply because they are well governed, and their studies are made a pleasure to them. No corporeal punishment is ever resorted to. If there be one thing lovelier

upon earth than another, it is a well-regulated school for children, where they are taught as our Saviour would have taught them. They are the nurseries of the church, or would be if rightly conducted; and if there be one greater sin of omission than another in our clergy, it is the little regard they pay to schools. I intend this remark for all denominations, and it is applicable to laymen as well as to clergymen. I don't mean that the dogmas of religion should be brought into the schools, but that they should see every thing is conducted in accordance with all the improved modes of education at the present day.

NEARLY AN OCTOGENARIAN.

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Montgomery County (Ohio) Agricultural Society.

ADVANTAGES OF EARLY PREMIUM LISTS.

THROUGH the kindness of Mr. O. KITTREDGE, Secretary of the above Society, we have been furnished with a pamphlet containing the premiums and regulations of the show, to be held at Dayton, Oct. 3d and 4th, 1854. We are pleased with the course pursued by this Society, of announcing the premiums a year beforehand. This plan has the advantage of giving competitors an opportunity to prepare for the exhibition, not only in the care of their stock, but also in putting in their spring crops. More accurate accounts of treatment, measurements, &c., will be kept. Besides, there is usually more interest in such matters just after a show than at a later period, and it is well to take advantage of this, and to stimulate future exertions, by bringing a definite plan before the mind before the excitement of the past exhibition has died away. We think it would be well for other County, as well as State societies, to imitate the example of the Montgomery Society. Another thing we notice is their premium list, which is worthy of consideration; viz., they have offered a pretty large list of the different agricultural papers. These, we think, form a better class of living premiums, and are much preferable to a lot of old, musty, antiquated Reports. We saw several of these last given the past autumn, which the receivers actually refused to carry home with them, not esteeming them of sufficient value to pay for the carriage and store-room.

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For the American Agriculturist.

EXPERIMENTS WITH SPECIAL MANURES.

BEING located on a small farm of thin soil, needing more manure than I can conveniently make, I have been trying various kinds of special manures for several years past, with a view of endeavoring to ascertain from my own experience whether any were profitable, or which were the most so.

In the spring of 1851 I sowed a small piece of thin, rocky soil with oats, and on a portion put from 300 to 400 pounds Kentish's prepared guano, and left a small piece without any thing, and on the residue put about the same quantity of poudrette, harrowed in with the oats, and seeded with clover. The season was dry, and the oats poor alike on all parts. The clover took well on the guano, rather poorly on the poudrette, and scarce at all where was no manure. The next season was favorable, and the clover fine on the guano, middling on the poudrette, and nothing where nothing was put.

In 1852 I sowed a small field—light, gravelly soil—with oats, after a corn crop of the preceding year. On about one-half I sowed 200 pounds Peruvian guano per acre. I left one land through the middle of the field without any thing, and

on the balance put 400 pounds Kentish's prepared guano per acre. The season was favorable; oats very good on Peruvian guano, but diminished in height about six inches at the line to which the guano was spread. No difference perceptible between the strip without manure, and the prepared guano; all very short straw, but pretty full heads. I seeded with clover, which took well, and the next season produced a fair crop, but rather the best where the prepared guano was put.

In 1853 I sowed Peruvian guano with oats, leaving small strips without, with similar results—oats good with guano and poor without.

In the fall of 1851 I sowed two pieces similar soil with rye. On one piece I put African guano, but not having enough to go over it, I spread a few loads of barn-yard manure on the furrow on one end—the poorest part—and harrowed all in together, and seeded with timothy and clover in the spring. On the other piece I put Kentish's prepared guano, and seeded the same as the first. The fall was very dry and the rye grew poorly, and the grass seed failed. The clover took well where the yard manure was put, rather thinly on the prepared guano, and scarcely at all on the African guano. The rye was pretty good on the yard manure, and poor elsewhere.

In the spring of 1852 I sowed Peruvian guano across a piece of wheat a few feet in width, which had been well manured with yard and stable manure. The wheat was all good, but the strip where the guano was put was very heavy, the rankness of the stubble showing plainly to the line; but there was no apparent difference in the grass the next season, all being good.

In the spring of 1850 I put a small handful of poudrette to the hill at planting on part of a field of corn, on the balance nothing; soil, a fine, sandy loam, and a stiff sod turned under pretty deep. The corn where the poudrette was put greatly outgrew the other during the fore part of the season, but the soil being in a fine condition for corn, there was but little difference in the yield, all being good. I have since used Peruvian guano and super-phosphate of lime with very similar results, all giving corn an early and vigorous start, which has resulted in fair crops in some cases on poor land.

Last spring I used ashes, Peruvian guano, prepared guano, and super-phosphate of lime on potatoes covered with the seed. The part where the phosphate was put soon outgrew all the rest, kept ahead, and produced the largest potatoes and the largest crop. No perceptible difference in the other parts of the field, all producing a fair crop.

I will leave the reader to draw his own conclusions from my experiments as above detailed, with only remarking that I have found nothing to supersede good stable and barn-yard manure, and would recommend the improving of that resource as far as circumstances will allow.

BEDFORD.

Westchester county, N.Y.

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FLUCTUATIONS IN FLOUR.—The *Baltimore American* contains an interesting table on the fluctuations in the wholesale price of Flour in the first three months of the year from 1706 to the present time. In March, 1706, the price was \$15 per barrel; in January, 1800, \$11 per barrel; in March, 1805, \$13; during the war, 1812-15, the highest price was \$11; in 1817, \$14.25 was paid; in March, 1821, it was as low as \$3.75; from that time to 1828, it did not go above \$7; in 1829, it was as high as \$8.50; the next year as low as \$4.50; in 1837, \$11, (the time of the Flour riots in New-York city;) in 1838-9, \$8; in 1841, it was down to \$4.50; in 1843, to \$3.87; in 1844, \$4.25; in 1845, \$4; and from that time to the present it did not go above \$6 in the months named. In the early part of 1853, Flour was low as \$5.25 per bbl.; now it is much higher.

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A SERIOUS CHARGE.—The *St. Louis Democrat* has a long article, going to show that Captain

Gunnison and his party were not killed by Indians, but by Mormons. "It is no part of the policy of these people," the *Democrat* says, "to permit an exploration of their country for the purpose of finding a route for a railroad, which is to be the highway of nations, and, if made, would bring them again under the observation of the civilized world."

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SOMERSET COUNTY, N. J.

DRAINING, STOCK-RAISING, &c.

We see the farmers of this county are moving in the matter of agricultural improvement. A goodly number of them met at the Courthouse in Somerville, on the 12th instant, elected officers for the year, and made arrangements for a fair next autumn. During the meeting J. R. CORNELL, Esq., the President of the Society, gave a very practical address. We give a few extracts, taken from the *Somerset Whig*:

The importance of under-draining, I am happy to say is now securing the attention it ought long since to have done—to this I beg leave to call your particular attention, and ascertain how it can be most economically done. Having paid some considerable attention to this subject, I now understand the rationale to be that air and heat are essential in preparing the food of the plants which is in the ground—a soil saturated with water from beneath the surface seldom exceeds 60 degrees of heat, hence grain or grass which requires 80 to 90 per cent. cannot grow on such land—draining obviates the difficulty. I commenced draining to get rid of a more unsightly, and as I feared unhealthy bog, and was not only successful in my object, but the first crop without manure, paid the expense. Of course I do not expect it will always do so, for it would be as unreasonable to expect a large pail of milk from an unfed cow, as a succession of large crops from unmanured ground.

The breeding, rearing, and fattening the stock of our farms has been much neglected, whilst other States and countries have been far ahead of us. I fear our horses and cattle have deteriorated. No climate is better calculated for successfully breeding horses than that of New-Jersey—we have neither the excessive cold of the north, nor heat of the south to contend with. Our horses were once considered the best in the country, and even now I consider a Jersey raised horse worth double a Western, or even a Pennsylvanian horse. The mule may be raised with profit, and for working animals they are strong, hardy, and easily kept, less liable to disease than the horse, and much longer lived, and if kindly treated when first used, they are docile and free from tricks. I have now a pair which I have had in constant use on my farm for the last eight years, and they have never been lame, sick, or sorry, but always ready to do a hard day's work. I paid \$210 for them 8 or 9 years since, and was a year ago offered \$400 for them.

My neighbor, Mr. James Campbell, has experimented on fattening cattle, and found great economy in cooking their food. The business of buying lean Western cattle, and fattening them here may I believe be followed with profit to the farmer, who understands this branch of a farmer's business. Of one thing we are certain, that the manure of these animals must be of vast importance in improving the farm, for I suppose you all know that grain fed cattle give far richer manure than corn-stalk or hay fed cattle.

Hogs when of good stock are profitable. I have made from ten hogs 50 loads of manure a year. I have found them the most profitable stock on the farm.

The cultivation of hops I believe can be made very profitable in this State. In some parts of the State of New-York it is the great crop.

The grape is very successfully cultivated in Ohio and made into wine, and not only of fine quality but in large quantities, and this with them is a new article of culture.

You all remember that the wheat crop in this

State was a very precarious one, and that we did not rise enough for our own consumption, but by introducing a new variety, the Mediterranean, we now have a sure crop; may not this be called a new article of culture?

Let me remind you of the benefit and profit of the turnip as an article of food for cattle. They can be raised at small cost, with but little trouble, and do not exhaust the soil, but I think benefit it. In the winter your cattle require succulent food, no matter how much hay or stalks you feed, unless some succulent food is given, they will fall off. Beef cattle fatten much easier and are in good health by an occasional feed of turnips. Were more attention paid to cultivating turnips, we would not see so many lean and unhealthy looking cows in the spring. I speak of turnips because they are so easily raised, but beets and carrots are far better for milch cows. I was informed by a foreman of a large manufacturing company, where four cart horses were kept and worked hard every day, that carrots were their constant food, and they done much better on them than on oats or ground feed, and at the same price per bushel, they were cheaper horse feed than oats.

For the American Agriculturist.

#### F FARMS IN WESTERN VIRGINIA.

LEWISBURG, Greenbrier Co., Va., Jan. 15, 1854.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—As some of your correspondents wish to know something about the Trans-Alleghany part of Virginia, I will attempt to give a general idea of this and the adjoining counties.

By an examination of the State map, it will be seen that Greenbrier is nearly in the center of Western Virginia, immediately on the western slope of the Alleghany mountains. Through this county there runs an extensive limestone valley from north-east to south-west. This limestone formation juts out of the great mountain-chain in the county of Pocahontas, and makes down in a southward direction through the counties of Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Monroe, &c. This entire district is most valuable agricultural soil, and is celebrated for its grazing lands, and is mostly occupied with grazing estates. The price of these lands range from ten to forty dollars per acre. Immediately west of this limestone formation, is a mountainous range of country, extending on almost to the Ohio river, and very sparsely settled. It cannot, however, properly be called mountains. It is a high elevated table-country with the water-courses cut deep through it; and throughout its entire extent it is a coal and sandstone formation, and has large quantities of the most valuable lands for agricultural and grazing purposes.

On the most elevated parts are to be found extensive flats of the richest soil, and the slopes are most beautiful, being, in many instances, not too steep to cultivate, though there frequently occurs large quantities of surface rock. My own impression is, that to take the entire country, about one-third is land of the very best quality, one-third good, and the other quite *inferior*. Comparatively, however, there is but little which could not be made worth something as grazing lands.

In this vast district—almost unoccupied—the price of lands unimproved range from one to three and four dollars per acre; large quantities in the northern part of this and eastern part of Nicholas counties have been sold during the past summer to Eastern Virginians. These sales have been made to persons who intend to occupy them, in quantities ranging from five hundred to six and seven thousand acres, and at prices from one to two and three dollars per acre. Throughout this entire country there is but very little bottom land, excepting on and about the head of Meadow river, a branch of Gauley river, which with New river form the Great Kanawha river, on which also there is a considerable quantity of most valuable bottom lands. About the head of Meadow river there is a beautiful valley of some ten miles in length

with a considerable breadth. This contains some three thousand acres of bottom-lands—a considerable portion of which is entirely too wet and marshy even for grass, and will require draining. This district is occupied to some extent. Lately several gentlemen of wealth have made purchases, and are improving their property extensively. These lands sell for five to ten dollars per acre, and when occupied by men of means and energy, this will become one of the most beautiful valleys in Virginia.

The whole Trans-Alleghany part of Virginia has been almost entirely locked up, excepting a small part, near the Ohio river. But now the State has adopted the internal improvement policy, and ere long every part of this country will be penetrated by a system of railroads which will develop the great resources of this vast region. The Central Railroad will soon be completed from the city of Richmond, by way of Charlottesville and Staunton, to Covington, where it will be met by the great Covington and Ohio Railroad, from the mouth of Big Sandy river. This latter road is now being constructed, and will be prosecuted with energy until finished. Covington is thirty miles east of this place, and the Covington and Ohio road will pass through this county. For agriculturalists of eastern States this country holds out great inducements. Their system of small farms is almost unknown here, and wool growing is scarcely thought of.

I have had much experience as surveyor and land-agent in this region, and shall be happy to impart any information in my power, as will also HENRY L. BROOKE, Esq., of Richmond, or COL. PHILIP P. DANDRIDGE, of Leetown, Jefferson Co., who are interested with me in the sale of these lands.

SAMUEL S. THOMPSON.

For the American Agriculturist.

#### Is Food when Cooked and Ground most Profitable?

A YOUNG beginner who has just commenced farming, wishes to ask a few questions of advice. Having heard much of the profits of ground and cooked feed over unground and raw for animals, I wish to know which would be the most profitable, to go four miles over a hilly road to mill, or feed the grain unground, or procure a mill to grind it at home? Would it be best to build a dam and put up a building for grinding feed at a cost of say \$350—my farm being 100 acres—or grind by horse-power in the barn? If it will pay cost to grind feed, what kind of mill would you recommend to grind corn in the cob? What to grind other grain? And what the cost of the mill you recommend? DUTCHES COUNTY.

Clinton, N. Y., Jan. 17, 1854.

We will answer our correspondent in a general way; we cannot minutely, for we are not sufficiently acquainted with the particular circumstances of his case to do so understandingly. He will have the good sense to make such modifications as best suit his situation.

If food bears a low price, it is no economy to cook or grind it for stock. We should call corn at 30 cents a bushel, and hay at \$7 per ton a low price. When hay is above this price, we should use a machine for cutting it, then wet and mix with bran or meal, and feed it. Corn we should not grind, but boil, as the cost of doing this is not usually as much as the toll taken or price charged for grinding. The smaller grain, such as oats, barley, &c., should be ground, and then fed raw or cooked as most economical. Corn or meal is easily boiled in a Mott's Furnace, or steam boiler on the same principle as at the distillery. If grain is to be transported but four miles or so, it may be cheaper to pay for the grinding, if only some four hundred bushels are consumed per annum; if several thousand bushels are to be consumed, it might be more economical to build a dam for

water-power, and put up a cheap mill; yet this could hardly be done for \$350—we should suppose it would cost nearer \$1200 or \$1500. Grain may be ground at the rate of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 bushels per hour, in a cast iron corn-mill costing \$25. It would require a one horse-power to drive this, costing \$85. A good corn and cob crusher costs \$55, and requires a two horse-power to drive it costing \$110. It will grind from ten to twelve bushels per hour.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE USE OF GUANO.—Frequent inquiries are made for the pamphlet on this subject, prepared for the Peruvian Government. An answer to the question may be found in the advertising columns.

For the American Agriculturist.

#### EXPERIMENT IN RAISING CORN.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Some months since I wrote you that members of the North Carolina Agricultural State Society put five dollars each into a common fund, as a sweepstakes to be divided into premiums, and given to the three having greatest yields of corn on ground pronounced by competent judges, not capable of producing more than three barrels or fifteen bushels without stimulating or manuring. All entering the list of competition were to help the ground, or manure it, according to their own judgment.

It is not yet decided who get the premiums; but so far as heard from my gain is the greatest, and that at the least expense. One gentleman in the lower part of the State, I learn, spent about three hundred dollars for manures, &c., and by machinery put some thousands of gallons of water on his acre, in a very dry spell of weather; and yet I beat him under same circumstances of weather, although my expenses are twenty odd dollars only. After ascertaining the result, I will send you an account more in detail. But I will here state that subsoil plowing at least 15 inches deep, with a substratum manure of guano put some 12 inches deep in the winter, and afterwards a light surface manuring, and manuring in drill when planting with Chapell's Fertilizer, are the outlines of my procedure. The yield was a gain of about 12 barrels or 60 bushels; and that, notwithstanding two dry, and one very wet spells of weather.

I would inform you as to my vineyard, that the yield the past season was very good. My Scuppernong wines especially are in great request, and sold as soon as fit for market.

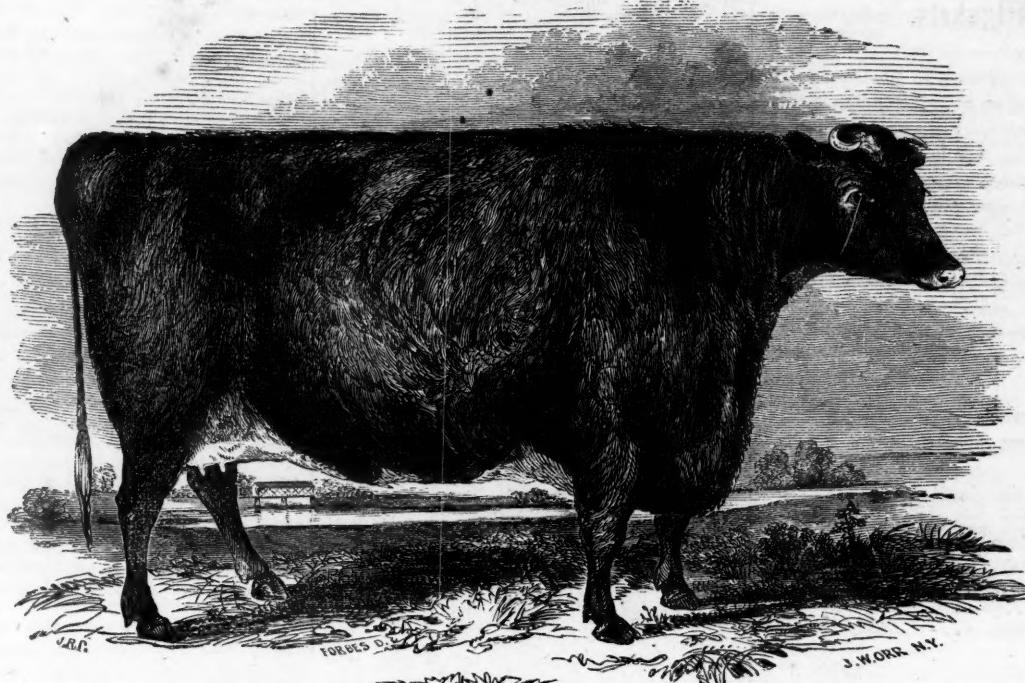
SIDNEY WELLER.

Briarleygreen, Halifax Co., N. C.,  
Jan. 5 1854.

"PUNCH" AND HIS AMERICAN PIPPINS.—The "immediate apple of our eye" is an American apple, which we happen to have in our eye at the present moment. It is not an apple of discord but an apple which comes home to our very heart's core with its assurances of friendship. A correspondent who signs himself "The American Enthusiast," has allowed his enthusiasm to take the very sensible turn of a present of apples to *Punch*, who, while receiving it, proceeds to cut it up; and, like some critics, shows his taste by making mince-meat of it. We have perused the whole of the apples with great satisfaction, and though we might find a spot here and there, the blemish is only on the surface; for when we descend a little lower than skin deep, we find the apple quite worthy of the appellation of the American Prince of Pippins, which we hereby confer on it.—*Punch*.

"Do you see any thing ridiculous in this wig?" said a brother Judge, to Curran. "Nothing but the head," he replied.

WHEN does a man rob his wife? When he hooks her dress.



ESTERVILLE 3d.—THE PROPERTY OF MR. LOVILLARD SPENCER, WESTCHESTER, N. Y.

ABOVE we present our readers with the cut of one of the finest cows in the State. Her color is mostly a deep, bright red. She was calved Sept. 28th, 1846. Got by O'Connell, (118 A. H. B.) out of Esterville 2d, by Dan O'Connell, (8,557;) Esterville 1st by Alfred, (2,987;) Amethyst by Prince of Northumberland, (2,826;) Young Amazon by Crusader,

(934;) Amazon by Sultan, (1,485;) Bellona by Mars, (411;) Rolla by North Star, (485;) &c. Esterville 3d took the first prize, after a sharp competition, at the New-York State Agricultural Society Show at Albany in 1850, and the first prize at the Show of the American Institute in 1853, which was the best and strongest show of Short-horns it ever made. She has now at her

side a fine heifer calf, got by the celebrated bull, Duke of Athol, (10,150.) He was out of one of Mr. BATES' celebrated Duchess cows, and was imported by Mr. SPENCER in 1852. Mr. S. has other very choice Short-horn cattle, imported and bred by himself.

#### CHEMISTRY OF COMMON LIFE.

THAT voluminous and indefatigable writer on agriculture, JAS. F. W. JOHNSTON, is constantly sending forth some new work upon his favorite subject. Those who have already read one or more of his popular works—and who has not—need not be told that most of what comes from his pen is eminently practical in its character, and well adapted to both interest and instruct the reader. He is now issuing a series of eight monthly numbers, (12½ cents each,) designed to explain the chemistry of the following subjects:

The air we breathe and the water we drink. The soil we cultivate and the plant we rear. The bread we eat and the beef we cook. The beverages we prepare and the liquors we consume. The narcotics we indulge in. The odors we enjoy and the smells we dislike. What we breathe and breathe for, and what, how, and why we digest. The body we cherish and the circulation of matter, a recapitulation.

We need not say that the work is well done. The high reputation of the author is a pledge with which the public will be satisfied. An example of the simple yet perfectly scientific manner in which he handles his very interesting subjects, is afforded by a paragraph selected from his account of the chemistry of "The water we drink."

The neighborhood of grave-yards is equally fitted, with the accumulation of town refuse, to adulterate water with undesirable admixtures. The water of a well which is close to the old church-yard on the top of Highgate Hill, has lately been examined by Mr. Noad, and found to contain as much as 100 grains of solid matter to the gallon, consisting of—

Nitrate of lime, . . . . .	40.12 grains.
Nitrate of magnesia, . . . . .	17.06 "
Sulphate of potash, . . . . .	17.04 "
Sulphate of soda (Glauber salts,) . . . . .	9.52 "
Chloride of sodium (common salt,) . . . . .	9.63 "
Chloride of calcium, . . . . .	5.91 "
Silica, . . . . .	0.90 "

100.18 grains.

This large amount of *nitrates* is traced to the neighboring grave-yard, as such compounds are generally produced where animal matters decay in porous soils. While the buried bodies were more recent, animal matters of a more disagreeable kind would probably have been found in the well, as I have myself found them in the water of wells situated in the neighborhood of farm-yards.

Well-waters sometimes contain vegetable substances also of a peculiar kind, which render them unwholesome, even over large tracts of country. In sandy districts the decaying vegetable matters of the surface-soil are observed to sink down and form an ochrey pan, or thin yellow layer in the subsoil, which is impervious to water, and through which, therefore, the rains cannot pass. Being arrested by this pan, the rain water, while it rests upon it, dissolves a certain portion of the vegetable matter; and when collected into wells, is often dark colored, marshy in taste and smell, and unwholesome to drink. When boiled, the organic matter coagulates, and when the water cools, separates in flocks, leaving the water wholesome, and nearly free from taste or smell. The same purification takes place when the water is filtered through charcoal, or when chips of Oak wood are put into it. These properties of being coagulated by boiling, and by the tannin of Oak wood, show that the organic matter contained in the water is of an albuminous character, or resembles white of egg. As it coagu-

lates, it not only falls itself, but it carries other impurities along with it, and thus purifies the water—in the same way as the white of egg clarifies wines and other liquors to which it is added.

Such is the character of waters in common use in the Landes of the Gironde around Bourdeaux, and in many other sandy districts. The waters of rivers, and of marshy and swampy places, often contain a similar coagulable substance. Hence the waters of the Seine at Paris are clarified by introducing a morsel of alum, and the river and marshy waters of India by the use of the nut of the *Strychnos potatorum*, of which travelers often carry a supply. One or two of these nuts, rubbed to powder on the side of the earthen vessel into which the water is to be poured, soon causes the impurities to subside. In Egypt, the muddy water of the Nile is clarified by rubbing bitter almonds on the sides of the water-vessel in the same way.

"In all these instances the principle of the clarification is the same. The albuminous matter is coagulated by what is added to the water, and in coagulating it embraces the other impurities of the water, and carries them down along with it.

"These cases, and especially that of the sandy Landes of Bourdeaux, and elsewhere, throw an interesting light upon the history of the waters of Marah, as given in the fifteenth chapter of Exodus.

"So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, what shall we drink? And he cried unto the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, they were made sweet."

## Markets.

**REMARKS.**—The advance in bread-stuffs the past week has been unexampled in this country since the Irish famine. Flour has risen at least one dollar per barrel, and is now \$8 75 to \$11. Wheat and most small grains have advanced in proportion. Corn improved 18 to 20 cents per bushel the past week, but to-day has receded a little. It is now worth \$1 to \$1 05. Pork has advanced \$1 25 to \$1 50 per barrel. Beef unchanged. Wool is more in demand.

Money is still in request at 9 to 12 per cent. outside of the Banks.

From the Mark Lane Express, Jan. 9th.

### REVIEW OF THE BRITISH CORN TRADE.

The quarterly returns of the arrivals of Grain, Pulse, and Flour into London during the three months ending 31st Dec., 1853, has just been published. The totals are as follows:—

WHEAT,	English.....	27,526 qrs.
Do.	Scotch.....	457 "
Do.	Irish.....	120 "
Do.	Foreign.....	432,112 "
		460,218 "
BARLEY,	English.....	46,647 qrs.
Do.	Scotch.....	13,896 "
Do.	Irish.....	9,553 "
Do.	Foreign.....	66,616 "
		136,712 "
OATS,	English.....	2,678 qrs.
Do.	Scotch.....	12,576 "
Do.	Irish.....	88,715 "
Do.	Foreign.....	233,869 "
		332,838 "
BEANS,	English.....	6,456 qrs.
Do.	Foreign.....	19,902 "
		26,361 "
PEAS,	English.....	4,940 "
Do.	Scotch.....	521 "
Do.	Foreign.....	26,864 "
		32,325 "
FLOUR.	English.....	34,994 sacks.
Do.	Scotch.....	521 "
Do.	Irish.....	3,038 "
Do.	Foreign.....	18,917 "
Do.	Do.....	90,376 brls.
		53,485 sacks. 90,376 brls.

The most striking feature in this return is the insignificance of the arrivals of home-grown produce as compared with the supplies from abroad; indeed we have become so dependent of late years on foreign countries for a large proportion of the food we consume, that the occurrence of any thing threatening to intercept the regular course of supplies is calculated to give rise to serious uneasiness. It is therefore quite natural that the present state of affairs in the East, and the imminence of the danger which exists of war with Russia, should have exercised considerable influence on the trade in grain; more especially as there is no denying that the wants of this country are, owing to the extreme deficiency of the last harvest, greater than they have been for years. The excitement in the trade has consequently increased since our last, and a further important rise has taken place at all the leading markets. The rise has been quite as great in the agricultural districts as in the consuming markets, and the impression that

farmers hold a smaller portion of the last crop than is usually the case at this period of the year, is rapidly gaining ground.

The deliveries from the growers have been of the same retail character as for some time past, and according to the last statement of the sales at the towns making the returns for the general average, the quantity sold appears to have been 76,785 qrs. against 102,845 qrs. in the corresponding week of the preceding year.

The arrivals from the northern ports of Europe are now falling off, and it may be safely concluded that nearly the whole of the vessels dispatched from the Baltic, &c., before the setting in of winter, have now reached our shores; hence no further supplies of consequence can be calculated on from that quarter for several months to come, and though according to the most recently received advices from Odessa, Galatz, &c., shipments continued to be made from these ports, the proportion intended for Great Britain had been comparatively small. It will therefore not be safe to reckon on assistance to any extent from ports east of Gibraltar. Part of the long-expected American supply has come to hand, and with a continuance of westerly wind we may look for good arrivals from thence; the entire quantity known to be on passage will, however, be found to do little to compensate for the falling off in the receipts from other quarters. We question, therefore, whether prices will be influenced by the supplies from the other side of the Atlantic, and this opinion is now so generally entertained, that those who were disposed have in many cases deemed it prudent to buy at once, which may account in some degree for the fresh impetus to the upward movement.

At Liverpool, where prices had for some time been below those current here, a rapid rise has lately taken place: the advance from Tuesday to Tuesday amounted to 10d per 70lbs on Wheat, and 2s. 6d. to 3s. per bnl. on American Flour.

Prices of Wheat and Flour are now so high as to cause much distress among the poorer classes, and should the rise continue (as there is too much reason to expect will be the case) substitutes will have to be extensively used. Indian Corn does not meet favor in England or Scotland as an article of food, and though extensively used in Ireland when it can be had at less money than Oatmeal, its scarcity and high value will prevent it this year taking the place of the last-named article. Under these circumstances we are inclined to think that Barley and Oats will be extensively used for grinding into meal, and we should not be surprised to witness an important rise in the value of both these kinds of grain.

The severity of the weather has abated since Tuesday, and we fear, however, that winter is not yet open, and there is reason to calculate on a late opening of the Baltic and other northern continental ports. On the whole the probabilities are much more in favor of a further rise in the value of breadstuffs than the reverse.

The arrivals of Foreign have been tolerably good, upwards of 20,000 qrs. having been reported during the week ending this (Saturday) evening. The greater part of this supply is from America, and we shall no doubt have further receipts from thence on rather a liberal scale; but as we are not likely to receive any thing from any other quarter, the supplies from the other side of the Atlantic are not likely to depress the market.

The country demand for foreign Wheat has been good throughout the week, and the transactions would no doubt have been extensive if the holders had been less extravagant in their pretensions. The rise from Monday to Wednesday was about 2s. per qr., and on Friday 3s. to 4s. per qr., more was asked than the prices at which purchases might have been made in the beginning of the week. There have been very few offers of floating cargoes, and the terms demanded have been relatively higher than those at which parcels on the spot have been held:

the operations have consequently not been important.

The nominal top quotation for Flour has been unsettled all the week, the millers having come to no understanding as to the rise. For town household Flour 70s per sack was asked on Friday, and country sorts were held at corresponding rates. About 30,000 brls. Flour have arrived from America, but fresh articles being previously very scarce, the article has met ready sale at improving prices.

Indian corn afloat has been sold at 50s. per qr., cost, freight, and insurance.

### THE CONTINENTAL CORN TRADE.

The advices from the Baltic are not of much interest just now, the export trade having, of course, been completely stopped by the winter.

Danzig letters of Dec. 31st state that only a very small portion of the land supplies of Wheat had proved of even middling quality, the greater part having consisted of such inferior samples as to be wholly unfit for shipment to England. Some idea may be formed of the difference in quality by the wide range in prices; Wheat being quoted there from 45s. up to 72s. per qr., free on board. Business had, on the whole, been quiet during the preceding week, owing, no doubt in some measure, to the Christmas holidays:

From Konigsberg we learn that the stock of Wheat at the close of the year consisted of only 28,500 qrs., being even smaller than at the end of 1847—a year of great scarcity there. The exports in 1853 had amounted to 180,000 qrs. Of Rye only 10,500 qrs. remained in warehouse; and the stocks of Barley, Beans, and Peas were quite trifling.

Rostock letters of the 30th ult. inform us that business in Wheat had been more or less checked by the very high pretensions of holders. The quantity in store was small, and the deliveries from the growers had been quite scanty, farmers being in general unwilling to sell, under the belief that prices might undergo a further important rise. The harvest in that neighborhood appears to have given a fair result, and the quality of the new produce is certainly fine. This we have been enabled to ascertain by the autumn shipments made from thence. The yield is also better spoken of than in other parts of Germany. The latest quotations from thence for fine 62½ lbs. Wheat is 75s 6d. per qr. free on board.

The most recent advices from Hamburg state that the close of the navigation had had its usual influence on the grain trade, and that but little had been done for some days before. The feeling was nevertheless very firm, and the prevailing belief was that the prices would go higher. Stocks on the spot, on the 31st of December, 1853, consisted of 700 lasts of Wheat, 160 Barley, 70 Oats, 1,100 Rye, 50 Beans, and 15 lasts Peas. Moderate qualities of red Wheat on the spot were quoted 70s. 8d. up to 72s. per qr. free on board. Of fine none had been offered. For shipment from out-ports in spring 70s. 6d. to 71s. 6d. per qr. free on board had been asked. In Barley and Oats there had not been much doing. For Danish Peas, equal to 52s. 3d. per qr. free on board in spring had been paid.

From Holland we have nothing of much interest to report. The trade was firm at Rotterdam on Monday, and prices quite as high as on that day week.

The advices from France continue, on the whole, quiet; but a large consumption of foreign Wheat is going on in that country, and the enormously large supplies from the Black Sea, &c., were fast disappearing. At Paris, on Wednesday, Flour was about 1 franc per sack cheaper than on that day week, and Flour was also rather easier to buy. The Marseilles market appears to have stood the large arrivals from Odessa, &c., with wonderful firmness; and though about 250,000 qrs. of Wheat had been received there in the month of December, prices had hardly given way.

At most of the Italian markets prices of

Wheat seem to have been very firmly maintained.

The tone of the accounts from the Black Sea ports is somewhat quieter this week. Most of the vessels had sailed, and the shipping season was considered as nearly at a close. At Odessa the stocks remaining in granary were estimated at 500,000 qrs. Wheat, 170,000 qrs. Rye, and 95000 qrs. Indian Corn.

#### PRODUCE MARKETS.

Wholesale prices of the more important Vegetables, Fruits, &c.

Washington Market, Jan. 28, 1854.

VEGETABLES.—Potatoes, Mercers, \$3 25; Pink Eyes, \$3 50; Western Reds, \$2 75; Sweet Potatoes, \$3 75; Cabbages, \$1 100, \$5@\$1; red do., \$6@\$8; Savoys, \$4@\$5; Curled Greens, \$1 50; Onions white, \$1 bbl., \$2 @\$2 25; yellow, \$2; red, \$1 75; Parsneps, \$1 bbl., \$1 62 1/2; Carrots, \$1 50; Beets, \$1 50@\$1 62 1/2; Turnips, \$1 bbl. white, \$1 75; Rutabaga, \$1 62 1/2; Spinach, \$1 bbl. white, \$1 75; Corn Saad, \$1 basket, 50c.; Celery, \$1 doz. bunches, \$1@\$1 12 1/2; Parsley, 25c.; Leeks, 62 1/2c.

FRUITS.—Apples, R. I. Greenings, \$1 bbl., \$3@\$3 25; Seek-no-further, \$2 75@\$3; Baldwins, \$3@\$3 25; Spitzenburgs, \$3@\$3 25; Roxbury Russets, \$2 75@\$3; Talman's Sweeting, \$2 75; Cranberries, \$1 bbl., \$1@\$7 50; Bush, \$1 75; Hickory nuts, \$1 bbl., \$4 50, \$1 bush, \$2; Chestnuts, \$1 bbl., \$7, \$1 bush, \$2 25.

A sudden change in the weather operated against the sale of fruits and vegetables this morning, as the frost was too severe to expose them; there was, however, a fair supply of cabbages, at the same prices quoted last week. Celery is not as plentiful as it has been, and the quality of that which we noticed was inferior in size and higher in price than it has been for some weeks. The variety of vegetables has reached the lowest point, as this is the most inactive season of the year for market gardeners.

APPLES do not vary much in price. We saw some good looking Seek-no-fthers; but the majority of the specimens of Greenings are not of first quality. Roxbury Russets keep well, and this is perhaps one of the most useful winter apples. We see very few samples of the more choice varieties, and conclude that those who have them for sale do better by sending them to city grocery stores by engagement, than they could by forwarding them to Washington market. Higher prices are obtained for good samples at Fulton market, as it is more easy of access to the consumers. Some good samples are to be found there during the season, which are doubtless worth the difference in price demanded. Cranberries are sold by retail from \$8 to \$8 50; the supply is limited at present. Some lots from Jersey City, grown spontaneously, are inferior to those from the New-England States; there is much difference in the qualities of the various samples received.

POULTRY continues at similar prices to those quoted last week; we saw a case of fine turkeys opened, for which 11 cents was asked; they were well frozen.

Eggs do not vary in price; they are quoted at 23 1/2c. per doz., wholesale, and by retail fresh country eggs are quoted at four for one shilling.

#### NEW-YORK CATTLE MARKET.

January 30, 1854.

THE state of the Cattle Market this morning was very similar to what it was on this day week, except that the demand was a little more brisk; the weather being very cold, and the supply on hand nearly equal to last report, the prices varied very little. Some very fine lots of cattle were disposed of at fair remunerative prices. One lot purchased by Benjamin Weeks' of heavy cattle did not average over 10c. More were sold at from 9 1/2@10c. than at any other price. The lowest figure we quote is 8 cents for beef at all worth purchasing. Complaints are still made of the want of accommodation on the Rail Roads, as the dealers suffer much from delay.

The following are the numbers for the week ending Jan. 30, at the

Washington Yards, Forty-fourth street.

A. M. ALLERTON, Proprietor.

RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK. IN MARKET TO-DAY.  
Beefves, 2,188 2,068  
Cows, 17  
Sheep, 1,600  
Veals, 161  
Swine, 542

The prices are quoted as follows:

Inferior, 8@9c.  
Middling, 9@9 1/2c.  
Superior, 10c.  
Extra, 10 1/2c.

The numbers reported above were forwarded as by the following routes.

By Harlem railroad, beefves, 300; cows, 17; sheep, 1600; veals, 161.

By the Hudson River railroad, beefves, 650, Hogs, 378.

By the Erie railroad, beefves, 900; swine, 164.

Of these 776 were New-York State cattle, forwarded by the cars. On foot 72.

From Pennsylvania, on foot, 89.

From Ohio, by cars, 435.

From Virginia, on foot, 132.

From Kentucky, by cars, 300.

Several lots of cattle arrived at noon, which of course prevented their being sold to advantage in to-day's market. Very few heeves were on hand at either of the other market places.

The cattle reported at Chamberlin's are as follows:

RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK. IN MARKET TO-DAY.

	CHAMBERLIN'S, Robinson street.	
Beefves,	325	10
Cows and Calves,	30	5
Sheep,	3,100	400
Veals,	20	

BROWNING'S, Sixth street.

	BROWNING'S, Sixth street.	
Beefves,	327	
Cows,	85	
Sheep,	3,472	800

The prices of beef reported by Chamberlin are from 7 1/2@10c. with a little more demand than at last report.

SHEEP.—The receipts of sheep have been a little larger for the past week, and prices at least no worse. A few choice lots have been disposed of. There are not many on hand to-day. Chamberlin reports the average prices at \$3 @4 50, \$7 50@\$10, for extras; he reports a lot of 228@\$6 75 per head from Bucks Co.; Pa.

JOHN MORTIMORE, broker, furnishes the following list of sales with the average rates:

Sheep.	Average per head.	Per pound.
190	\$4 25	10c.
125	4 50	10 1/2c.
227	6 75	11c.
122	4 12 1/2c.	10c.
126	4 37 1/2c.	10 1/2c.

The sheep market has been rather dull, owing it is supposed to the supply of pork and poultry. There is not any prospect of an advance for the present. Mutton sells in the carcass at Washington Market at from 5 1/2@8 1/2 cents per pound, according to quality.

WM. DEHEART furnishes a few notes of his sales: 197 sheep @4 75; 24 @4 37 1/2c.; 60 @4 31 1/2c.; 48 @5 75; 145 for \$677 75; 120 @5 62 1/2c.; 64 @5 1/2c.; 34 @4 12 1/2c.

At Browning's McGraw & Palmer had a lot of long wool South-Downs, from Schoharie Co., N. Y., fed by Mr. Good-year, which were estimated @110 pounds each, held @\$16. The prices were from \$3@\$6.

VEALS.—No variation has taken place in the price of veals; the number received differs little from last week's report. Wm. Deheart sold 15 coarse grass calves @\$15 per head.

SWINE.—The price of pork has decreased during the past week. The latest reports from the Western Markets show a little disposition to advance. The Cincinnati Gazette reports the prices for hogs on Wednesday, the 25th instant, at \$4 75 @ to \$4 90 which is a slight advance, and at close of market sellers were disposed to hold them at \$5. A. M. Allerton reports sales at 5@5 1/2c. for 542 reported at the Washington Yards. Carcasses at Washington Market averaged 6c. @6 1/2c. wholesale, and 7c. for single ones. Poultry is in good demand in lots of from 8c. @9c. per pound, and is retailed at 10c. @11c. The weather is favorable for all kinds of meat.

HORSE MARKET.—Few sales have been effected within the past week; the number of horses on hand is not much diminished and purchasers would fare better at this season than sellers. The horse season has not yet arrived. A few transactions are effected from week to week, but nothing worth particular notice.

#### PRICES CURRENT.

Produce, Groceries, Provisions, Lumber, &c.

Ashen.

Pot, 1st sort, 1853. \$100 lbs. 5 81 1/2c. —  
Pearl, 1st sort, 1852. 6 25 1/2c. —

Beeswax.

American Yellow. \$1 lb. — 27 1/2c. —

Bristles.

American, Gray and White. — 40 1/2c. —

Coil.

Liverpool Orrel. \$1 chaldron, 10 50 1/2c. — 13 —

Scotch. — — — 10 1/2c. —

Sidney. 7 75 1/2c. — 50

Pictou. 8 50 1/2c. —

Anthracite. \$2,000 lb. 6 50 1/2c. — 7 —

Cotton. Atlantic Other Gulf Ports. Florida. Ports.

Interior. — — — — —

Low to good ord. 7 1/2@8 1/2c. 7 1/2@8 1/2c. 7 1/2@8 1/2c.

Low to good mid. 9 1/2@10 1/2c. 10 1/2@11 1/2c. 11 1/2@11 1/2c.

Mid. fair to fair. 10 @11 1/2c. 11 1/2@11 1/2c. 11 1/2@12

Fully fr. to good fr. 11 1/2@— 11 1/2@— 11 1/2@12

Good and fine. — — — — —

#### Cotton Bagging.

Gunny Cloth.	1/2 yard, —	10 1/2@10 1/2c.
American Kentucky.	—	—
Dundee.	—	—
Coffee.		
Java, White.	1/2 lb. —	13 1/2@13 1/2c.
Mocha.	—	13 1/2@13 1/2c.
Brazil.	—	10 1/2@11 1/2c.
Maracaibo.	—	11 1/2@11 1/2c.
St. Domingo.	(case).	9 1/2@10

Cordage.		
Bale Rope.	1/2 lb. —	7 1/2@10
Boat Rope.	—	— 1/2@14 1/2c.

#### Cork.

Velvet, Quarts.	1/2 gro.	85 1/2@45
Velvet, Pints.	—	20 1/2@28
Phials.	—	4 1/2@12

#### Feathers.

Live Geese, prime. 1/2 lb. — 45 1/2@47

#### Flax.

Jersey. 1/2 lb. — 8 1/2@9

#### Flour and Meal.

Sour.	1/2 bbl.	6 25 1/2@6 62 1/2c.
Superfine No. 2.	—	9 75 1/2@9 87 1/2c.
State, common brands.	—	9 06 1/2@9 12 1/2c.
State, Straight brand.	—	9 12 1/2@—
State, favorite brands.	—	9 06 1/2@9 25
Western, mixed do.	—	9 11 1/2@9 31 1/2c.
Michigan and Indiana, Straight do.	—	9 18 1/2@9 37 1/2c.
Michigan, fancy brands.	—	9 12 1/2@9 38
Ohio, common to good brands.	—	9 06 1/2@—
Ohio, round hoop, common.	—	9 25 1/2@9 50
Ohio, fancy brands.	—	9 50 1/2@10 50
Ohio, extra brands.	—	9 25 1/2@—
Michigan, fancy brands.	—	8 93 1/2@9 62 1/2c.
Genesee, fancy brands.	—	9 75 1/2@—
Genesee, extra brands.	—	9 —@—
Canada, (in bond).	—	9 37 1/2@9 50
Brandywine.	—	9 37 1/2@9 50
Georgetown.	—	9 37 1/2@9 50
Pittsburgh City.	—	9 25 1/2@9 37
Richmond Country.	—	9 25 1/2@9 37
Alexandria.	—	9 25 1/2@9 37
Baltimore, Howard Street.	—	9 25 1/2@9 37
Rye Flour.	—	6 1/2@4 75
Corn Meal, Jersey.	—	5 1/2@—
Corn Meal, Brandywine.	—	5 1/2@—
Corn Meal, Brandywine.	1/2 bush.	18 1/2@—

#### Grain.

Wheat, White Genesee.	1/2 bush.	2 60 1/2@2 75
Wheat, do, Canada (in bond).	—	2 1/2@2 15
Wheat, Southern, White.	—	2 35 1/2@2 45
Wheat, Ohio, White.	—	2 30 1/2@2 40
Wheat, Michigan, White.	—	2 50 1/2@2 55
Wheat, Mixed Western.	—	2 25 1/2@2 32
Wheat, Western Red.	—	2 20 1/2@2 30
Rye, Northern.	—	1 30 1/2@—
Corn, Unsound.	—	1 10 1/2@—
Corn, Round Yellow.	—	9 2 1/2@9 20
Corn, Southern White.	—	1 09 1/2@—
Corn, Southern Yellow.	—	1 09 1/2@—
Corn, Southern Mixed.	—	1 09 1/2@—
Corn, Western Mixed.	—	1 10 1/2@—
Corn, Western Yellow.	—	—
Barley.	—	95 1/2@1 05
Oats, River and Canal.	—	51 1/2@—
Oats, New-Jersey.	—	48 1/2@—
Oats, Western.	—	53 1/2@—
Oats, Penna.	—	49 1/2@—
Oats, Southern.	—	45 1/2@—
Peas, Black-eyed.	1/2 bush.	2 75 1/2@2 87 1/2c.
Peas, Canada.	bush.	1 18 1/2@—
Beans, White.	1 50 1/2@1 62	

#### Hay, for Shipping.

North River, in bales. 1/2 100 lbs. — 65 1/2@70

#### Hops.

1853. 1/2 lb. — 45 1/2@48  
1852. — 38 1/2@40

#### Hair.

Rio Grande, Mixed. 1/2 lb. — 20 1/2@22  
Buenos Ayres, Mixed. 1/2 lb. — 19 1/2@21

#### Hemp.

Russia, clean.	1/2 ton.	255 1/2@300
Russia, Outshot.	—	—
Manilla.	1/2 lb.	10 1/2@10
Sisal.	—	10 1/2@—
Sun.	—	6 1/2@—
Italian.	1/2 ton.	240 1/2@—
Jute.	—	182 50 1/2@185
American, Dew-rotted.	—	170 1/2@—
American, do, Dressed.	—	180 1/2@—
American, Water-rotted.	—	—

#### Molasses.

New-Orleans.	1/2 gall.	28 1/2@—
Porto Rico.	—	23 1/2@37
Cuba Muscovado.	—	23 1/2@26
Trinidad Cuba.	—	23 1/2@26
Cardenas, &c.	—	22 1/2@24

#### Nails.

Cut, 4d@60d. 1/2 lb. — 4 1/2@5 1/2c. —

Wrought, 6d@20d. — — — —

#### Naval Stores.

Turpentine, Soft, North County.	1/2 280 lb.	5 1/2@5
Turpentine, Wilmington.	—	5 1/2@87 1/2c.
Tar.	1/2 bbl. 3 —	5 1/2@3 50
Pitch, City.	—	2 75 1/2@—
Resin, Common, (delivered).	1 75 1/2	5 1/2@1 97 1/2c.
Resin, White.	1/2 280 lb. 2 50	4 75
Spirits Turpentine.	1/2 gall. 66	5 1/2@6 68

#### Spirits.

Beer, Mess, Country.	1/2 bbl. 8 25	11 1/2@11
Beer, Prime, Country.	—	5 50 1/2@5 75
Beer, Mess, City.	—	13 1/2@13 50
Beer, Mess, extra.	—	15 50 1/2@16 50
Beer, Prime, City.	6 25	6 62 1/2@6 82

Beef, Mess, repacked, Wisconsin.....	—	@ 13 50
Beef, Prime, Mess.....	10 lbs.	@ 22 —
Pork, Mess, Western.....	10 bbl.	15 12 1/2 @ 15 25
Pork, Prime, Western.....	12	87 1/2 @ —
Pork, Prime, Mess.....	14 88	@ 15 —
Pork, Clear, Western.....	—	@ 15 25
Lard, Ohio, Prime, in barrels.....	10 lb.	— 10 1/2 @ —
Hams, Pickled.....	—	8 1/2 @ 9 1/2
Hams, Dry Salted.....	—	8 1/2 @ 8 1/2
Shoulders, Pickled.....	—	6 1/2 @ —
Shoulders, Dry Salted.....	—	6 1/2
Beef Hams, in Pickle.....	10 bbl.	13 — 15 —
Beef, Smoked.....	10 lb.	8 1/2 @ 9 1/2
Butter, Orange County.....	— 20	22 1/2
Butter, Ohio.....	12	— 14 —
Butter, New-York State Dairies.....	16	— 20 —
Butter, Canada.....	12	— 14 —
Butter, other Foreign, (in bond),.....	—	— —
Cheese, fair to prime.....	8 1/2 @	11 1/2
<b>Plaster Paris.</b>		
Blue Nova Scotia.....	1 ton	3 50 @ 3 75
White Nova Scotia.....	3 50	3 62 1/2
<b>Salt.</b>		
Turks Island.....	1 bush.	— @ 48
St. Martin's.....	—	— @ —
Liverpool, Ground.....	1 sack	1 10 @ 1 12 1/2
Liverpool, Fine.....	1 45	1 50 @ —
Liverpool, Fine, Ashton's.....	1 72 1/2	1 75 @ —
<b>Saltpetre.</b>		
Refined.....	10 lb.	6 1/2 @ 8
Crude, East India.....	7	7 1/2 @ —
Nitrate Soda.....	5	5 @ 5 1/2
<b>Seeds.</b>		
Clover.....	10 lb.	— 10 @ 11 1/2
Timothy, Mowed.....	10 lbs.	— 17 —
Timothy, Reaped.....	17	— 20 —
Flax, American, Rough.....	1 bush.	— @ —
Linseed, Calcutta.....	—	— @ —
<b>Sugar.</b>		
St. Croix.....	10 lb.	— @ —
New-Orleans.....	4	6 1/2 @ 6
Cuba Muscovado.....	4 1/2	6 @ —
Porto Rico.....	4 1/2	6 1/2 @ 6 1/2
Havana, White.....	7 1/2	8 @ —
Havana, Brown and Yellow.....	5	7 1/2 @ —
Manilla.....	5 1/2 @ —	—
Brazil White.....	6 1/2 @ —	7
Brazil, Brown.....	5	— @ —
Stuart's, Double-Refined, Loaf.....	9 1/2 @ —	—
do. do. do. Crushed.....	9 1/2 @ —	—
do. do. do. Ground.....	8 1/2 @ —	—
do. (A) Crushed.....	9	— @ —
do. 2d quality, Crushed.....	none.	— @ —
<b>Tobacco.</b>		
Virginia.....	10 lb.	— @ —
Kentucky.....	5 1/2 @ —	—
Mason County.....	6 1/2 @ —	11
Maryland.....	—	— @ —
St. Domingo.....	12	— 18 —
Cuba.....	18 1/2 @ —	23 1/2
Yara.....	40	— 45 —
Havana, Fillers and Wrappers.....	25	— 1 —
Florida Wrappers.....	15	— 60 —
Connecticut Seed Leaf.....	6	— 20 —
Pennsylvania Seed Leaf.....	5 1/2 @ —	15
<b>Tallow.</b>		
American, Prime.....	10 lb.	— 11 1/2 @ 12
<b>Wool.</b>		
American, Saxony Fleece.....	10 lb.	— 50 @ 55
American, Full-blood Merino.....	46	— 48
American 1/2 and 3/4 Merino.....	42	— 45
American, Native and 1/2 Merino.....	38	— 40
Extra, Pulled.....	46	— 48
Superfine, Pulled.....	42	— 44
No. 1, Pulled.....	38	— 40

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**HOUSE WANTED FOR A SMALL FAMILY.**—One A few miles from the city, and of moderate access, daily, could be preferred. A plot of ground attached would be desirable. Possession wanted immediately, or at any time before the 1st of May. A good tenant, and perhaps a future purchaser, may be heard of by addressing or calling upon J., at office of this paper.

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**HEDGE, LONG-HANDLE, AND SLIDING PRUNING SHEARS;** Budding and Edging Knives; Pruning Hatchets, saws and knives; pruning, vine and flower scissors; bill and Milton hooks; lawn and garden rakes; garden scufliers, hoes of great variety, shovels and spades; hand engines, which throw water forty feet or more, syringes and water pots; grafting chisels, tree scrapers, and caterpillar brushes; transplanting trowels, reels; hand plow and cultivator, very useful to work between rows of vegetables, together with a large assortment of other implements too numerous to mention. [21st] R. L. ALLEN, 189 and 191 Water st.

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**NORTHROP & POST'S DROVE AND SALE STABLES,** corner of Third Avenue and Twenty-fourth street, New-York. The subscribers, formerly proprietors of the Rose Hill Stables, respectfully announce to their former patrons and the public generally, that they have taken the five new fire-proof brick stables, capable of holding 300 horses, directly opposite the Bull's Head Hotel, and, by their efforts to please, hope to receive a fair share of that patronage which they so strongly solicit. R. K. NORTHROP, New-York, April 1st, 1853. N. POST. 1-34

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**PORTABLE FORGES.—REMOVAL.**—THE SUBSCRIBER, successor of E. Flager, and sole manufacturer of Queen's patent portable Forge and Bellows, respectfully gives notice that he has removed his depot for the sale of said Forges to No. 210 Water street, (directly opposite his old location,) where, by the long-attested superiority of this portable Forge over all others for the use of blacksmiths, machinists, jewelers, dentists, coppersmiths, shipping, quarries, public works, &c., &c., he hopes to retain a continuance of past patronage. FREDERICK P. FLAGER, No. 210 Water street. 2-22

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